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Rich marine ecosystem beckons in Honda Bay

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, August 8, 2005 ★★ 62 pages / 6 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 241 P18

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Filipina pays dearly for fake designer specs

SANA SA UKAY-UKAY KA NA LANG NAMILI!

ROME—A FILIPINO woman ended up paying thousands of euros for a pair of fake designer spectacles she had bought on the street in Florence after she was stopped and fined by po-

FILIPINA/ A21

GMA speech correct but transcript wrong

IT WAS a press office hiccup, rather than a presidential faux pas.

President Macapagal-Arroyo actually had the name of the South Korean president right.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday blamed the snafu on an error in the transcript of the President's speech and the press release based on it. Consequently, the INQUIRER report

GMA SPEECH/ A7

Cruz accuses Palace of bribing witnesses

'No more principles, morals, values'

By Christian V. Esguerra

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz yesterday accused Malacañang of bribing and harassing witnesses who had implicated President Macapagal-Arroyo in election fraud and "jueteng" (illegal gambling) payoffs in a bid to remain in power.

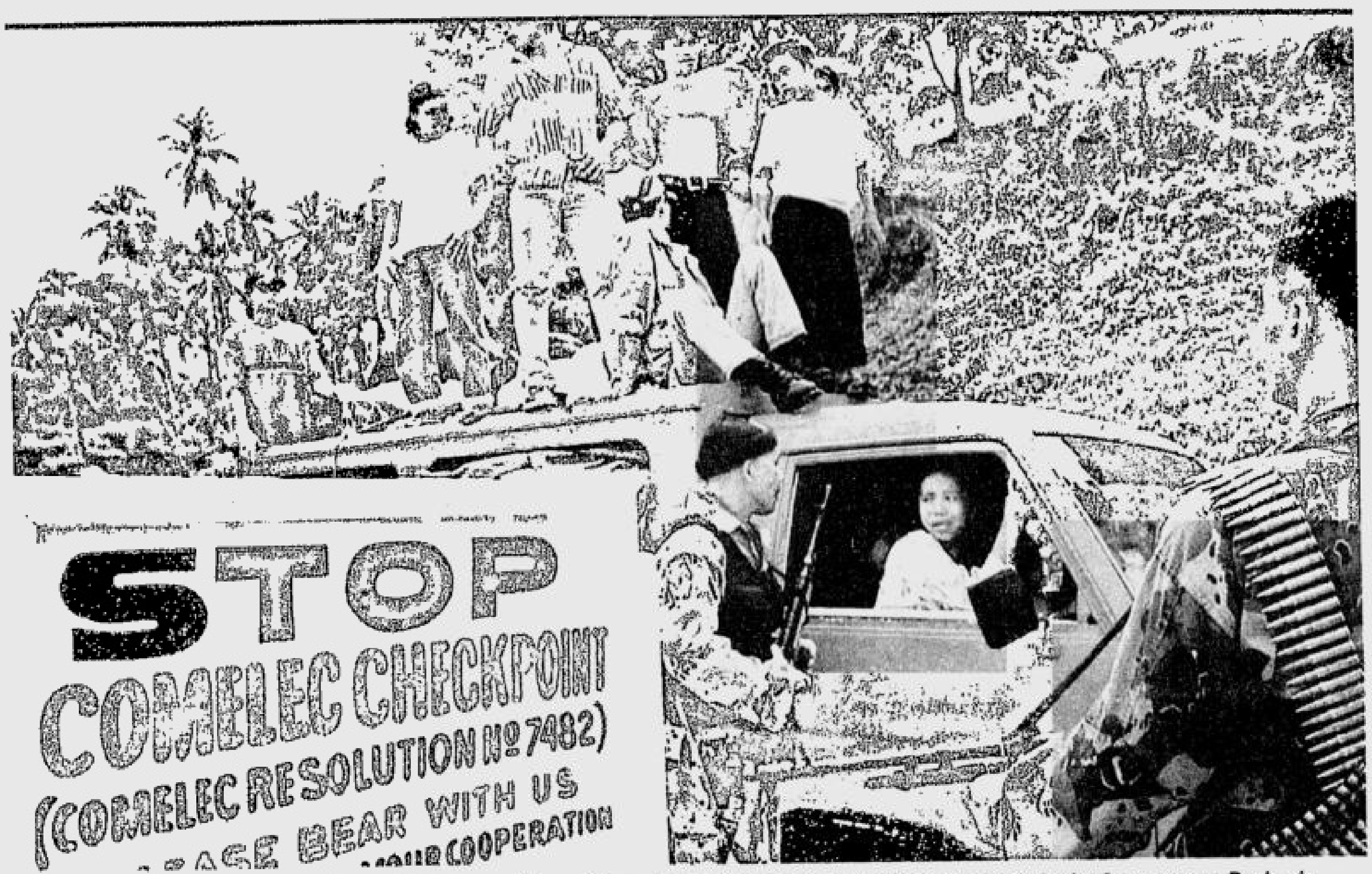
"There are no more principles. There are no more values and morals. Everything is just about money, money, money," Cruz said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER and in a statement broadcast over the Church-backed Radio Veritas.

Cruz said Malacañang was either bribing or harassing witnesses in an attempt to repair the damage caused by their testimonies. He said the government had also resorted to buying their own witnesses to discredit damaging testimonies.

"Why is the administration so nervous and panicky that it will spare nothing to destroy jueteng witnesses?" said the 70-year-old prelate of Lingayen-Dagupan.

"What kind of government is this? Are we in a military state already? Witnesses are being threatened, the government is

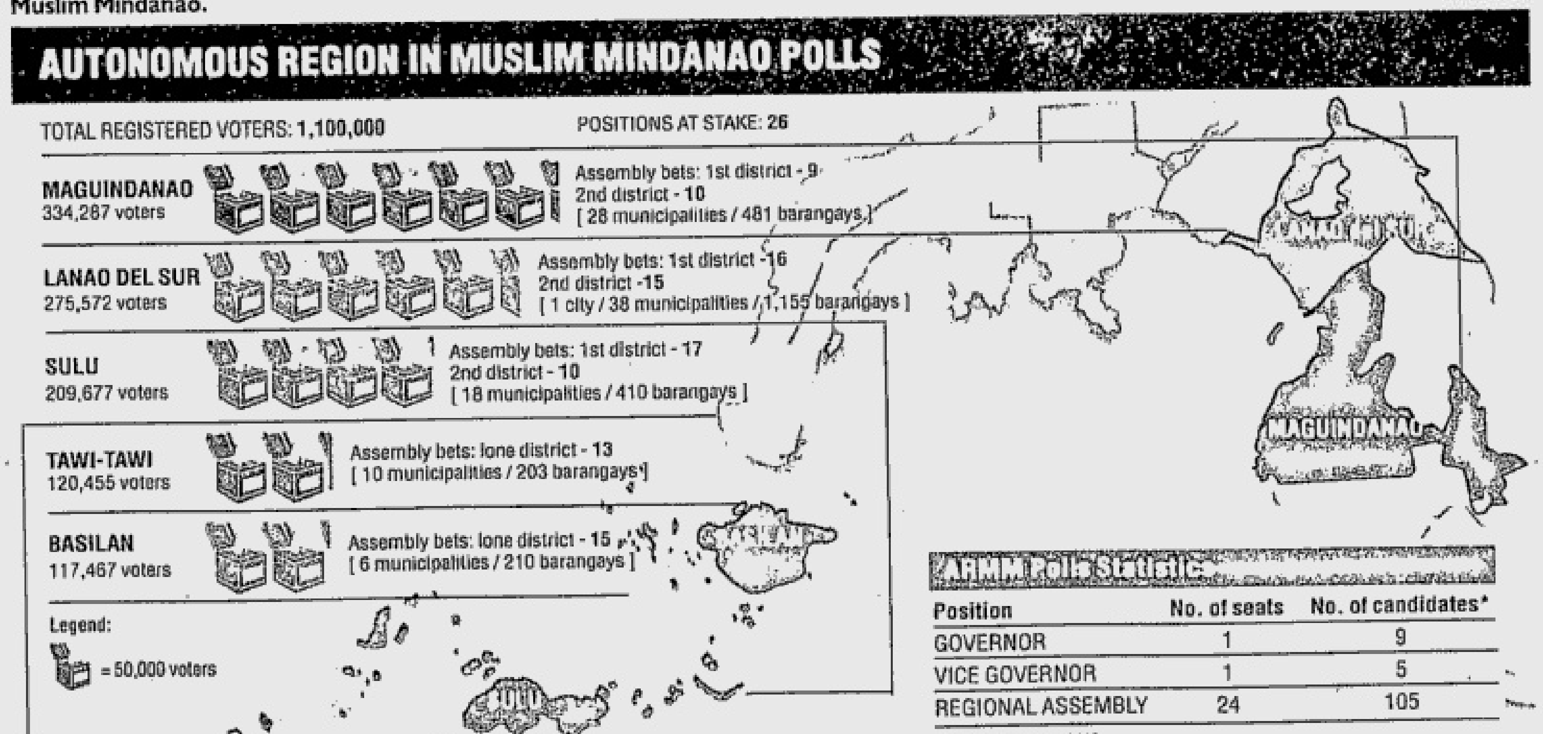
CRUZ/ A21



ON HIGH ALERT. A soldier checks a vehicle at one of the military checkpoints set up on the eve of elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

LYN RILLON

AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO POLLS


TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS: 1,100,000
POSITIONS AT STAKE: 26
MAGUINDANAO 334,287 voters
Assembly bets: 1st district - 9
2nd district - 10
[28 municipalities / 481 barangays]
LANAO DEL SUR 275,572 voters
Assembly bets: 1st district - 16
2nd district - 15
[1 city / 38 municipalities / 1,155 barangays]
SULU 209,677 voters
Assembly bets: 1st district - 17
2nd district - 10
[18 municipalities / 410 barangays]
TAWI-TAWI 120,455 voters
Assembly bets: lone district - 13
[10 municipalities / 203 barangays]
BASILAN 117,467 voters
Assembly bets: lone district - 15
[6 municipalities / 210 barangays]
Legend:
= 50,000 voters
MAGUINDANAO

ARMM Polls Statistic

Position	No. of seats	No. of candidates*
GOVERNOR	1	9
VICE GOVERNOR	1	5
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	24	105

*AS OF AUGUST 5, 2005

THE AUTONOMOUS Region in Muslim Mindanao, created by Republic Act No. 6734 in 1989, has jurisdiction over administrative organizations, family relations, natural resources, economic, social and tourism development. It does not have powers over certain matters, including foreign affairs, national defense and security, monetary and fiscal policies, citizenship and foreign trade.

Powers devolved to the region shall be exercised through the Assembly, the governor and special courts. The governor has the executive power while the Assembly exercises the legislative power.

Governor and vice governor are elected by popular vote and have three-year terms each. Both cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms.

The Assembly is composed of three members from each of the congressional districts. They have three-year terms and cannot serve for more than three consecutive terms.

SOURCES: Comelec, NSCB / PDI RESEARCH: Maricar Tolosa / INQGRAPHIC: Ernie Sambo

GMA erred in choice of candidate, says MNLF

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

A POLITICAL blunder was committed by President Macapagal-Arroyo when she endorsed a candidate who did not belong to the Moro National Liberation Front in today's elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, according to MNLF leaders.

By anointing Zaldy Ampatuan as the candidate of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats in the ARMM polls, the President had engaged in patronage politics, said Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin.

Ampatuan reportedly delivered 286,000 votes for Ms Arroyo in the presidential election in May 2004. A son of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan, he is mayor of Sharif Aguak town in the province.

In the wiretapped conversation between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, the President allegedly ordered the rigging of election results in areas like the ARMM, which includes Basilan.

Salappudin was among those who expressed interest in running for governor of the autonomous region preferably under the administration party

GMA ERRED/ A7

ARMM polls today a test of credibility

By PDI Mindanao Bureau

MARAWI CITY—Five provinces and a city vote today in regional polls that are seen as a test for the Arroyo administration to hold credible elections after being severely scarred by the "Hello Garci" scandal.

The governorship, vice governorship and 24 regional assembly seats are up for grabs in the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao carved out of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, and Marawi City.

Ranked among the country's poorest regions, ARMM has close to 1.2 million voters and covers about 12,000 square km of rich agricultural land.

But growth has been stunted by war and clan conflicts among various factions, some with alleged links to foreign militants.

"We will make this an opportunity to turn around the Comelec's

ARMM POLLS/ A22

Roco health factor in poll plan of GMA

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

FORMER Sen. Raul Roco fully deserves all the posthumous accolades he has received from colleagues in the political class and fellows in the bar, who have acknowledged his brilliant law career and legislative service, and from associates in the public service.

Not known to many is the fact that Roco's health was crucial to the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo to stand for election in 2004. The supreme irony is that his ill health, which was confidential information, helped his rival, Ms Arroyo, reshape her campaign strategy to overcome the popularity of Fernando Poe Jr.

Roco's prostate cancer was a powerful impediment to his aspiration to serve as the "apostle of hope" and to transform Philippine politics. The disease stood in

ROCO/ A8

Politicians lobby for party-list groups' accreditation

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(Last of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE COMMISSION on Elections has been strict in accrediting party-list groups, according to its chair Benjamin Abalos. From as many as 160-plus in 2001, fewer than 70 were accredited last year.

But former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano believed otherwise.

The Comelec's "Mindanao specialist" claimed the poll body had been "very lax" in the party-list accreditation process.

"And I do not like it," Garcillano told the INQUIRER in an interview before the "Hello Garci" wiretap scandal broke out.

He said: "If we are to strictly follow the law, there will only be very few marginalized sectors that should be represented … We should have a limit as to how many should represent a certain sector."

Party-list groups are supposed to embody the "marginalized and underrepresented sectors" of society, or the "majority who wallow in poverty, destitution and infirmity."

However, a close look at the roster of accredited party-list groups during the past eight years showed otherwise.

"Does this party-list really represent the marginalized and underrepresented? Or is it just some politicians' front? Who are the people behind this particular group?" said Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales.

Clearly, Republic Act No. 7941 or the Party-list System Act of 1995 has been exploited by some politicians, among others, said Commissioner Mehol Sadain.

Without naming names, Sadain disclosed that during accreditation periods before national elections, politicians lobby in behalf of some party-list organizations.

Sadain also claimed politicians and party-lists "used each other in the elections [in a] 'I scratch your back, you scratch mine' arrangement."

"That's common knowledge," said Abalos.

Garcillano stressed the need to restudy the accreditation process and the Comelec guidelines.

The Supreme Court has come out with an eight-point guideline for party-lists, saying: "The political party, sector, organization or coalition must represent the marginalized and underrepresented groups identified in RA 7941."

The 12 sectors covered by the law are labor, peasant, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, elderly, handicapped, women, youth, veterans, overseas workers and professionals.

POLITICIANS/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon and Visayas will be cloudy with occasional rains. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy, with rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, EDI RESEARCH/05/08/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Roco takes last flight home today

By Michael Lim Ubac

AT HIGH noon today, former Sen. Raul Roco's remains will be flown to Naga City.

Roco will finally come home to his 89-year-old mother, Rosario "Nena" Sagarbarria-Roco, who to this day lives in the two-story Roco ancestral home on Barlin corner Sta. Cruz Streets, according to Roco's nephew Ninoy, who is in charge of preparations for the Bicol trip. Ninoy was also with Roco when he died in the arms of his sister Rosario, a Catholic nun, and his son Rex.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who at the last minute canceled her 10 p.m. visit to Roco's wake on Saturday, urged the nation, as it mourns the "sad and untimely" death of the former senator, to reflect on the "need for unity and reconciliation behind truth and justice.

"In his fight for these high principles, Raul Roco never sought to harm or destroy, but to redeem and build upon the nation," Ms Arroyo said in a statement released by Malacañang.

The President said the memory of Roco "will always remind us to want nothing else but the welfare and interest of the Filipino people, whom we humbly join in mourning his death.

"Let this be a moment of peace and oneness for the people in celebrating the good fight of a good man, whose moving words and deeds will certainly find a place in our history and serve as an inspiration for the generations to come," she said.

Resigned Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman confirmed that Ms Arroyo was all set to pay her last respects on Saturday to the man who had recently called on her to step down to pave the way for a snap election.

"I saw the [Presidential Security Group] packing up. When I asked, 'where's the President?' they said she won't come," recounted Soliman, who went to the wake at about 9 p.m. and left at past 1 a.m. *(The President did go to the wake, but at 9 a.m. on Sunday. She was met by Roco's sister Rosario and stayed only a few minutes.–Ed.)*

Everyone is welcome

"Maybe [she aborted her visit] because she learned that there are too many opposition [personalities] here," said Soliman, one of the so-called Hyatt 10 Cabinet officials who had resigned their posts and called on Ms Arroyo to step down amid the raging poll fraud and jueteng scandals.

Press Secretary and presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye was seen attending Mass at about 9 p.m. Saturday at the Maria della Strada Parish church on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City, where Roco's remains are lying in state.

For some reason, Bunye did not approach the family but hurriedly left after the Mass.

In contrast, Ms Arroyo's son Diosdado or Dato mingled freely with Roco's children since they had been neighbors in La Vista, Quezon City.

Said Roco's eldest son Robbie Pierre "Bobbit": "Everybody is welcome here."

Family tribute

During the Mass, Roco's casket was transferred to the main church from the adjacent chapel to accommodate the throng of mourners, supporters and family friends. The casket was brought back to the chapel at 2 a.m. Sunday.

In keeping with the family's wish to keep the wake as private as possible, close friends and family members were the only ones allowed to eulogize Roco during necrological rites at 9:30 p.m. yesterday.

Ninoy said the family decided to skip the traditional necrological rites in the Senate and the House of Representatives in deference to Roco's mother who has been anxiously waiting for her son's remains in Naga.

Roco's remains were scheduled to be taken to the Anscor hangar at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 10 a.m. today after Mass.

Full military honors

Amid full military honors (courtesy of the Senate), the casket will be brought home on a 19-seater plane. Selected members of the family will accompany him through the hour-long trip.

There will be a three-day wake at Ateneo de Naga University until the interment on Thursday at Sto. Niño Memorial Park in Naga City, where his remains will be laid to rest beside his father Sulpicio's tomb.

Political luminaries who did show up to pay their last respects at the Della Strada chapel were former President Corazon Aquino, Vice President Noli de Castro, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Senators Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Francis Pangilinan, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Juan Ponce Enrile and Mar Roxas with girlfriend Korina Sanchez, former Senators Vicente Sotto III and Jovito Salonga, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando.

With Christine O. Avendaño

HIS MOTHER the President may have cancelled her visit to the wake at the last minute, but Diosdado "Dato" Macapagal-Arroyo (right) came to pay his last respects to the late Sen. Raul Roco accompanied by an unidentified friend.

RYAN LIM

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Scandal cools relations between Pinedas, clergy

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CLOSE friendship between the Pinedas of Pampanga and the local clergy has turned cold amid the "jueteng" scandal rocking the Pineda family's close friend President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A ranking Church official yesterday said that relatives of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda had distanced themselves from the clergy who allegedly failed to extend any support to the Pinedas in the wake of the controversy.

"They're disappointed because the priests have gone quiet while they're getting all the heat. But during the good times, the priests were all smiles and supportive," the source told the INQUIRER.

The official said some of the Pinedas expected the clergy to deny allegations that the family was involved in jueteng. Or at the very least to speak up on their behalf, considering the many donations the Pinedas had made to the local church.

Archbishop Paciano Aniceto of San Fernando, Pampanga, earlier said the family had been keeping a "low profile" since the scandal broke out.

"I think they are laying low because they are being linked to some allegations," he told reporters. "I don't see them or hear from them these days anymore."

Bong Pineda, said to be in the United States, is widely believed to be the biggest jueteng lord in the country. His operations allegedly continue unabated under the Arroyo administration.

His wife Lilia, Pampanga provincial board member, has been accused of bribing election officials in the presence of Ms Arroyo in the latter's La Vista residence in Quezon City shortly before the 2004 elections. The officials were allegedly asked to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory.

According to the INQUIRER source, the Pineda couple had every reason to be disappointed with the silence of the Pampanga priests.

In the past, the Church official said, the Pinedas would send a roast calf whenever a priest celebrated his birthday. "That's their trademark."

In turn, priests allegedly never missed celebrating Mass and attending the subsequent party when the family celebrated a special occasion. "They usually came in droves," the source said.

A good number of the clergy allegedly went on trips to Hong Kong and Singapore courtesy of the province's biggest alleged jueteng lord.

"It was all-expenses paid," the source said. "They were each even given $500 shopping money."

When Bong Pineda had a dispute with a lesser known and much younger alleged jueteng operator in the province, the source said it was a ranking official of the San Fernando archdiocese who even brokered the reconciliation meeting.

Indon terrorists may be in RP, says security exec

TEN SUICIDE attackers from Indonesia might have entered the Philippines and could be trying to acquire explosives for attacks in the country, the national security adviser said yesterday.

Information on the threat was passed on to the Philippine government by Indonesian security officials who accompanied President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on a visit to Manila last June, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said. At least one other Asian country had issued the same warning, Gonzales added, but he did not say which one.

"We were informed that up to 10 Indonesians may have crossed the border and are now in the country," said Gonzales. "There is an effort to acquire materials and position personnel."

Gonzales's statement left room for doubt, unlike a similar warning he issued last month that "we know that there are suicide bombers now in the Philippines."

Earlier, Gonzales told television network ABS-CBN that Metro Manila could be a target. "There are about 10 Indonesian suicide bombers that are in the country today, and we're of course after them," he said.

Authorities have identified some of the possible attackers, Gonzales said. A government task force has been created to thwart possible attacks and capture the foreign militants, he added.

The Philippines has been hit by major terror strikes, including the bombing of a ferry that killed more than 100 people last year.

Gonzales said he was concerned that a political crisis battering President Macapagal-Arroyo's government could distract authorities from antiterrorism efforts.

Ms Arroyo stands accused of violating the Constitution, betraying the public trust, corruption and bribery in an impeachment complaint filed against her in the House of Representatives. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Gonzales acknowledged that some might believe that the recent terror warnings from the government were being raised to divert the public's attention from the raging political crisis.

But he added: "What we want to relay to the public is that this is a very serious threat and we can't let our guard down. The only effective measure against this is to capture the perpetrators before they do something." AP

US court says Ang may have committed crime

By Nelson F. Flores

A NEVADA court has found that Charlie "Atong" Ang, erstwhile crony of former President Joseph Estrada, may have committed the crime of plunder, in the course of hearing the extradition case filed against him by the Philippine government.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said the Nevada court's opinion showed that Estrada and his son and co-accused, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, were guilty of plunder. He cited the foreign court's ruling in an omnibus opposition he filed in the Sandiganbayan after one of Estrada's lawyers, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, said the "Sandiganbayan Special Division is programmed to convict my client."

The Sandiganbayan antigraft court is hearing the plunder and perjury cases against Estrada, his son and his lawyer, Edward Serapio. Ang is suspected of being involved in alleged illegal gambling payoffs to Estrada and his son.

Villa-Ignacio, who obtained a copy of the American circuit court's opinion from Philippine government lawyers seeking Ang's extradition from the United States, said the Nevada court described Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who blew the whistle on Estrada and Ang, as being "demonstrably corrupt" but nevertheless found his testimony to be "credible and his story believable."

In finding probable cause against Ang, the Nevada court said: "Singson's testimony regarding Ang's participation in the jueteng scheme with him and Estrada is plausible and the scheme itself is amply supported by the ledger kept by Singson ... Even though the ledger does not necessarily reflect Ang's participation, Singson's testimony in and of itself is sufficient."

"One cannot ask for a more impartial assessment," Villa-Ignacio said.

The 68-year-old Estrada, who is under house arrest in his sprawling vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, while undergoing trial, has consistently held that the charges against him were politically motivated.

Saguisag had earlier said Estrada's case had been prejudged.

"How can a lower court see him (Estrada) otherwise?" Saguisag said, adding that the Supreme Court had convicted his client when it legitimized his ouster from office by swearing in Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as president in 2001.

Holidays cost customs bureau ₱600M

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU of Customs loses millions because of the government's holiday economics since the bureau fails to collect a substantial amount of duties and taxes when there is no work.

"We lose around P600 million during holidays that fall on a weekday," Customs Commissioner Alexander Arevalo said in a recent interview.

The country is saddled with an estimated P160-billion budget deficit for 2005, according to finance officials.

Earlier, the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines said the series of non-working holidays the government had declared were bad for business because they confused travel plans, increased operational costs and hampered productivity.

The government also decided to move non-working holidays to Monday or Friday so workers could enjoy a long weekend and to boost local tourism.

To make up for "lost" collections on holidays, the BOC kept open three of its major collection districts during non-working weekdays: the Port of Manila, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the Manila International Container Port.

However, Arevalo said, the three ports failed to muster the necessary numbers, collecting only P20 million per holiday.

"We kept our offices open at the biggest ports during the holidays, but the problem was that the other offices we had to deal with were also closed, so we weren't able to collect a lot," Arevalo said.

The average collection on a regular working day at the BOC's biggest ports is P100 million, he said.

The BOC must collect P151.185 billion for 2005. For the third quarter of the year, the goal is P38.962 billion.

Arevalo earlier said one way the BOC could meet its target would be to auction off confiscated jewelry in its possession which would allow it to raise between P300 million and P600 million. The department could also liquidate overstaying cargo in its warehouses.

The customs commissioner said he is banking on the bureau's 12-hour workday scheme to increase its collection in the coming months.

The scheme, which requires the BOC to remain open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., was initiated by Arevalo's predecessor Alberto Lina to allow the bureau to complete more transactions in a day and to foster a better business environment.

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DepEd execs score politicking in search

By Alcuin Papa

OFFICIALS of the Department of Education have called on the Arroyo administration to continue with the reforms started by previous DepEd secretaries and, at the same time, condemned the apparent "politicking" in the race for the next secretary of education.

In a statement, officials led by DepEd officer in charge and Undersecretary Ramon C. Bacani said Malacañang must "respect" ongoing reforms in the education sector started by former Secretaries Edilberto de Jesus and Florencio Abad. Bacani also said it was imperative that President Macapagal-Arroyo appoint someone who would continue the department's education reform programs.

The call came amid the growing competition among candidates vying for the post of education secretary.

The top three contenders for the post are former Rep. Antonio Nachura, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) director general Augusto Syjuco and current DepEd Undersecretary for Programs and Projects Fe Hidalgo.

"We are facing a crisis in the basic education sector. Former secretaries De Jesus and Abad started substantive reform initiatives intended to bring us out of this crisis. We need to stay on course with these reforms," Bacani said.

Undersecretary for Finance and Management Juan Miguel M. Luz said the politicking in the selection of the next education secretary was not good for the department.

"Worse, if the next education secretary changed the direction and reform programs of DepEd, this would do more harm to our students. We're better off with an officer in charge and the current management team," Luz said.

Pagasa to forecast flooding as well

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S weather bureau—the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)—will soon not only be more equipped to gauge the strength of typhoons but also to tell if there would be major flooding as well.

Learning from the flash floods that damaged towns in Quezon and Southern Leyte, the Office of the President is funding the acquisition of Doppler radar sets that can measure the amount of rain in a raging storm, Pagasa officer in charge Graciano P. Yumul Jr. said in a recent interview.

Yumul said the S-band radars Pagasa was currently using allowed it to base its typhoon signals on the wind velocity of an approaching storm. The radars become inadequate, however, when the storm is not accompanied by strong winds but only by heavy rains.

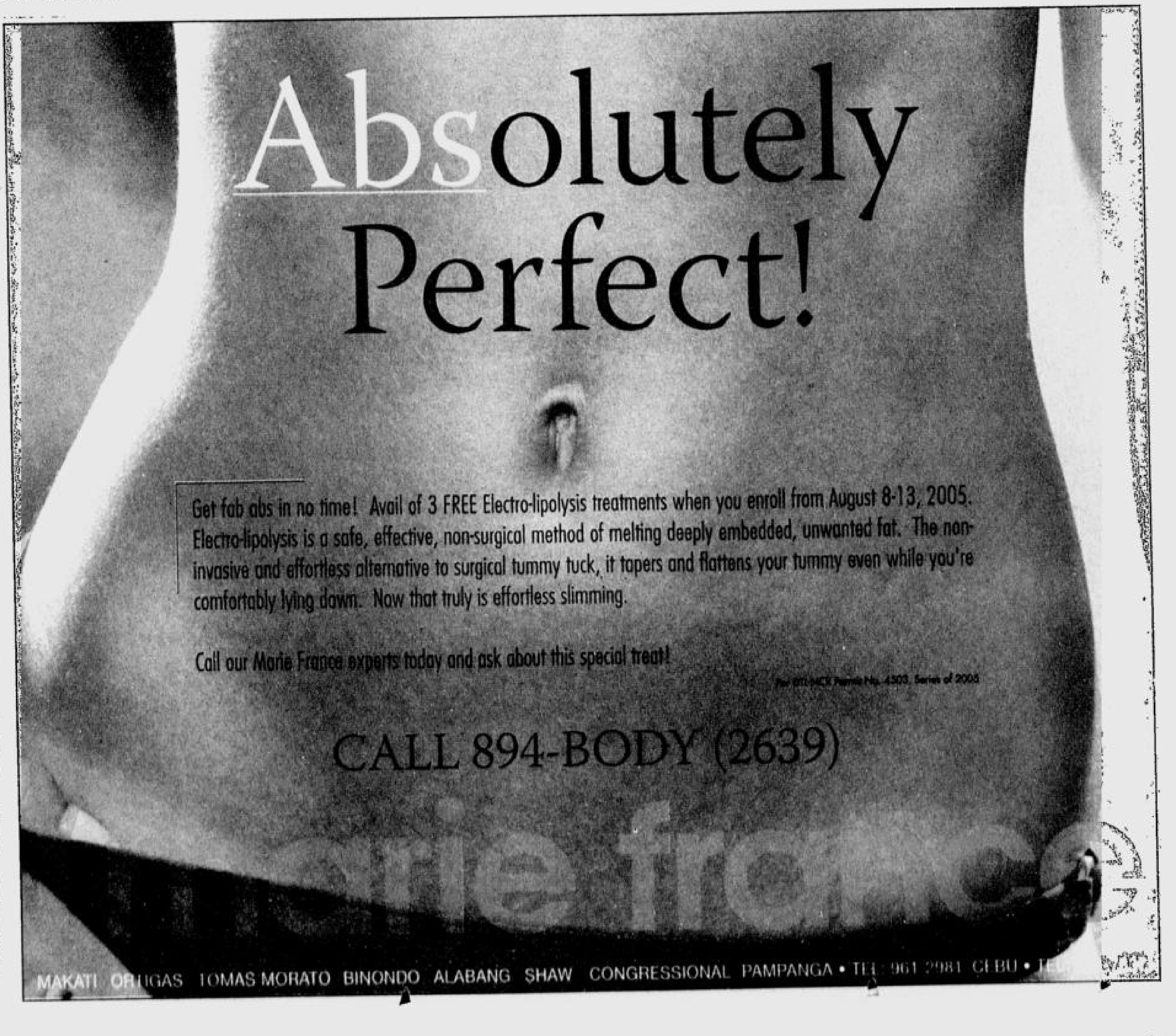
"This was the case in the recent tragedy in Quezon. Pagasa did not call any storm signals because there were no strong winds but there were non-stop rains that caused the devastating floods," Yumul said.

Pagasa had sought P110 million from Malacañang and the National Disaster Management Council to acquire two Doppler radars to be installed in Tagaytay City and Bataan province.

"Pagasa received P110 million from Malacañang and the National Disaster Management Council early this week and we will soon bid out the procurement of the Doppler radars," Yumul said.

He said Pagasa was also negotiating a grant from the Japanese government to acquire five additional Doppler radars to be installed in the Visayas and Mindanao.

At the same time, a multisectoral task force comprised of government, the academe and the Australian Center for International Agriculture Research is set to train local farmers and provincial agriculturists in the use of better weather knowledge to improve farm productivity, Yumul said.



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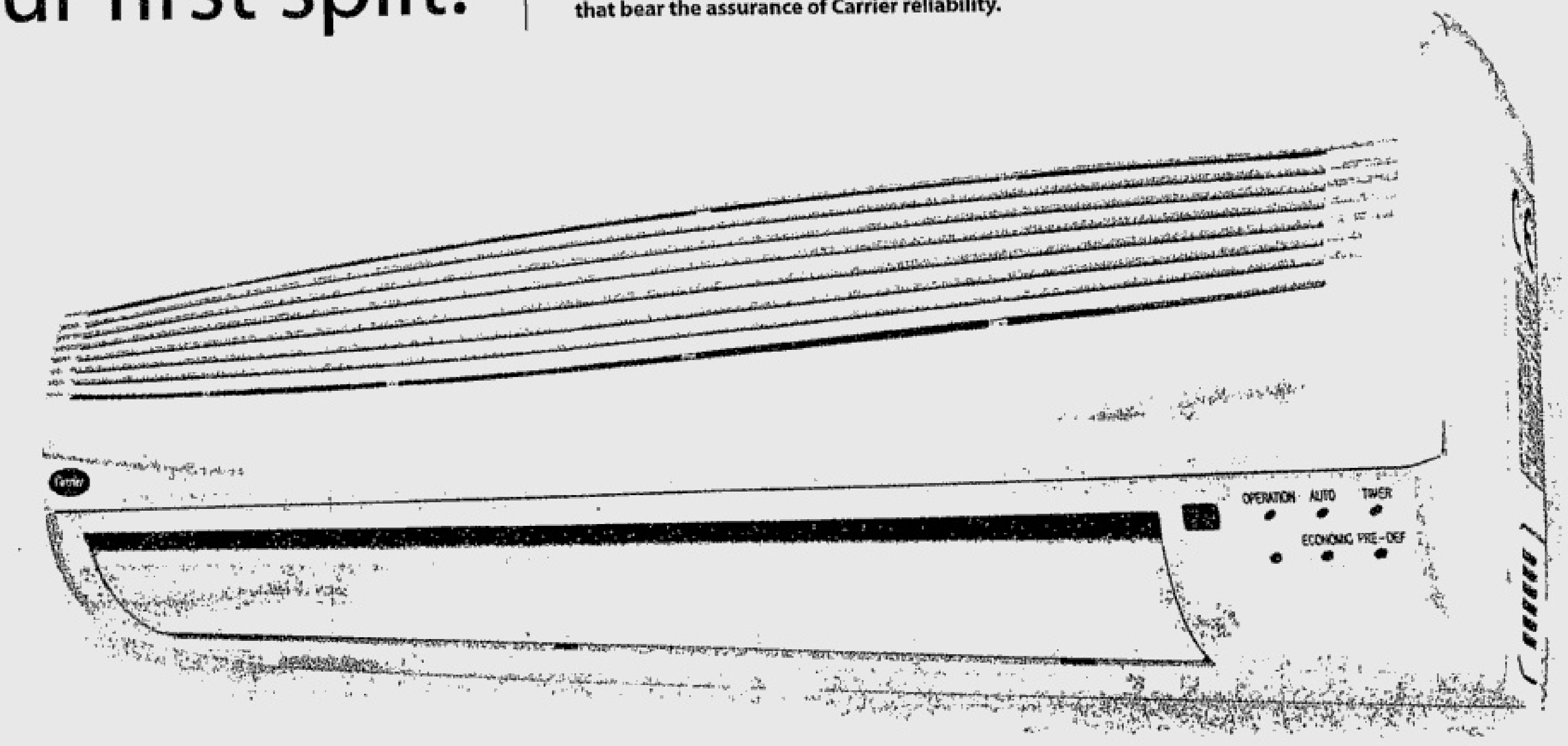

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200,000 Pinoys on cybersex list, says solon

THOUSANDS of Filipinos—women, men and possibly even children—have been lured by cybersex operators based on the registry of one popular website peddling sexual activities via the Internet, according to a lawmaker.

Lone Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago (NPC) revealed that the website www.adultfriendfinder.com had claimed to own a list of 212,257 potential online sexual partners from the Philippines.

The website claims to be "the world's largest sex and swinger personals site, where real people meet online for casual sex." It claims to have a list of over 19.6 million active members worldwide, 48,000 of whom are online at any given time.

"Based on this website alone, assuming the figures are truthful, the Philippines now has the world's 15th largest list of possible sexual partners over the Internet," said Santiago, a former chief of the National Telecommunications Commission.

"We find this surprising considering that outside the office, very few Filipinos have ready access to personal computers with an Internet connection," Santiago pointed out.

"This only suggests that a number of Internet shops may be fronting for cybersex operations, and/or that there are many gangs here running clandestine cybersex dens," Santiago added.

He noted that the authorities had busted several cybersex operations, including those run by foreigners, in recent months.

In May, two Dutch nationals suspected of operating a cybersex den were killed in a shootout with government agents who were serving them arrest warrants in Quezon City.

In the house where the shootout took place, agents found five women who told investigators they were paid to undress and perform sex acts in front of computer video cameras for clients mostly in the United States. The women said they got paid up to P50,000 a month.

Also in May, authorities nabbed an American and a Canadian in Angeles City for allegedly maintaining a cybersex den. Evidence gathered at the den linked the two foreigners to the website www.chathostess.com.

Last month, the Abra provincial prosecutor recommended the filing of criminal charges against an American man and his Filipino wife for allegedly forcing children to work in a cybersex den in Bangued town.

Among 35 countries in Asia, the Philippines has the second largest list of potential sexual partners, next only to India, in www.adultfriendfinder.com.

The 13 countries that have larger lists than the Philippines are the United States, with over 14.2 million; the United Kingdom, over 1.9 million; Canada, over 1.2 million; Brazil, 830,615; Germany, 762,055; India, 677,812;

Mexico, 671,761; Australia, 624,949; France, 556,301; Spain, 520,324; Italy, 471,188; Argentina, 357,212, and Peru, 317,726.

In Asia, apart from India and the Philippines, the other countries with lists of over 100,000 members each are Malaysia, with 177,996; Singapore, 126,428; Japan, 112,053, and China, 106,163.

Santiago has been pushing for the swift approval of new legislation that would impose tougher penalties on cybersex operators.

Cybersex is a form of pornography wherein live sexual acts are performed by men and women, and even children, before web cameras that stream images directly to the computers of paying Internet users.

Cybersex fiends lure mostly women and young girls, including those from the provinces, into performing the sexual acts.

"We are gravely worried that going forward, as the country's Internet users increase, illicit cybersex activities will also proliferate," Santiago said.

Correction

IN THE AUG. 6 issue, the front-page banner story—"Roco succumbs to cancer"—misstated in the lead paragraph that Raul Roco, one of the candidates in the May 10, 2004, presidential election, "was forced to quit the race because of failing health." Roco did not quit the race, although he temporarily left the campaign trail on April 13, 2004, to seek treatment in the United States for cancer. On April 28, he returned to the Philippines to resume his campaign. "So there is no turning back now. I came home to fight on," he said upon his return.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent, pending the appointment of a new readers' advocate, to Isagani Yambot, publisher, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: iyambot@inquirer.com.ph.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 8, 2005
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dt 10:12-22
Gospel: Matthew 17:22-27

While Jesus was in Galilee with the Twelve, he said to them, "The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands, and they will kill him. But he will rise on the third day." The Twelve were deeply grieved.

When they returned to Capernaum, the Temple tax collectors came to Peter and asked him, "Does your master pay the temple tax?" He answered, "Certainly."

Peter then entered the house, but immediately Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Simon? Who pay taxes or tributes to the kings of the earth: their sons or the other people?" Peter replied, "The others." And Jesus told him, "The sons, then, are tax-free. But so as not to offend these people, go to the sea, throw in a hook and open the mouth of the first fish you catch. You will find a coin in it, take it and let it pay for you and for me."

Commentary

Once again Jesus tries to tell the disciples what awaits him in Jerusalem: rejection, delivered unto death, being killed and raised again. They are deeply grieved. They cannot abide it, not even the thought of it. And they go back to Capernaum, home for them and Jesus asks Simon (his name when he doesn't follow Jesus first) about "who pays taxes or tributes to the kings of the earth: their sons or the other people? It is a strange question-aimed at Peter's lack of belief in Jesus as the Son of the Father, Lord of heaven and earth. He is told: "the sons are tax-free." Peter, and we hardly understand what he is saying. He is told to go get the money and pay it because they aren't ready yet to declare that they belong to Jesus, to God alone. They are divided at heart and so their practice is half-hearted as well. Are we followers of the God Father of Jesus, even unto the cross and resurrection or are we still 'this people easily offended' and without understanding who pay the taxes and serve two gods: and so serve neither well.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (LAND TITLE AND DEEDS)—Registration of title under Section 14, Property Registration Decree—Section 14 of the Property Registration Decree, governing original registration proceedings provides three obvious requisites for the filing of an application for registration of title—that the property in question is alienable and disposable land of the public domain; that the applicants by themselves or through their predecessors-in-interest have been in open, continuous, exclusive and notorious possession and occupation, and; that such possession is under a bona fide claim of ownership since June 12, 1945 or earlier. Instead, the more reasonable interpretation of Section 14(1) is that it merely requires the property sought to be registered as already alienable and disposable at the time the application for registration of title is filed. If the State, at the time the application is made, has not yet deemed it proper to release the property for alienation or disposition, the presumption is that the government is still reserving the right to utilize the property; hence, the need to preserve its ownership in the State irrespective of the length of adverse possession even if in good faith. However, if the property has already been classified as alienable and disposable, as it is in this case, then there is already an intention on the part of the State to abdicate its exclusive prerogative over the property. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Tinga, Second Division, Republic v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 144057, January 17, 2005)

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Politicians lobby for party-list groups' accreditation

'Does this party-list really represent the marginalized? Or is it just a front for politicians?'

From page A1

In 2001, the Supreme Court disqualified several groups for failing to comply with its guidelines. They included the Veterans Freedom Party, Cooperative Natcco Network Party, True Marcos Loyalist, National Alliance for Democracy, Abay Pamilya Foundation Inc., Social Justice Society, Sandigang Maralita, Ahonbayan Inc. and the Bigkis Pinoy Foundation.

But the same groups were resurrected in the 2004 elections. Some merely changed their names.

According to RA 7941, party-list groups that have taken part and lost in two consecutive elections are disqualified from the next one.

"So how come the group Alliance of Volunteer Educators (AVE) was allowed to run [in 2004]?" asked a Comelec staff member.

The AVE was known as the Asosasyon para sa Kaunlaran ng Industriya ng Aklat Inc. or Aklat in the two previous elections.

Alleged fronts for politicians

The group tallied 343,498 votes during last year's polls, entitling it to a House seat.

Garcillano believed some party-list groups had questionable qualifications.

Another Comelec official, who asked not to be named, said some "pseudo party-list" groups were "nothing but fronts of certain politicians."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. is said to be behind the AVE, a group said to represent the professional educators' sector. It is currently represented in the House by Dr. Eulogio "Amang" Magsaysay.

The Alif, on the other hand, had Acmad Tomawis, a known protégé of Lanao del Sur Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo, as its first nominee. The group's second and third nominees happened to be Tomawis' wife and brother.

Representing Muslims

The Alif was organized in 2003 with Tomawis as president and chair.

The group said it "seek[s] to represent the marginalized and underrepresented sector of the indigenous cultural communities, particularly the Mindanao-based members thereof."

But it failed to say that Muslims, including those in the autonomous region, are already represented in Congress.

An Waray appears to represent interests that are neither marginalized nor underrepresented, said Comelec insiders.

Initially disqualified from taking part in 2001, the group advocating development programs for depressed provinces last year won a House seat, after getting more than 260,000 votes.

Defending the Warays

Lawyer Raoul Creencia, An Waray spokesperson, said the group represented not only Warays based in Eastern Visayas but also those in Metro Manila and other urban areas.

"Are (the Warays of Eastern Visayas) really underrepresented in Congress?" Garcillano asked.

Eastern Visayas (Region 8) has at least 12 representatives in the House. In addition, of course, to An Waray Rep. Florencio Noel.

Daryl Grace Abayon, wife of incumbent Northern Samar Rep. Harlin Abayon, was on the short list of An Waray nominees.

"Actually, there are some members of the group who were a little uncomfortable with the presence of some politicians in the same circle. But they were there to help. Daryl Abayon is qualified. It just so happened that she's the wife of a congressman," said Creencia, who is also An Waray secretary general.

He denied allegations that An Waray was a mouthpiece of former first lady Imelda Marcos, whom he called the "most prominent Waray-Waray."

Exploiting the system

Comelec insiders also questioned the backgrounds of two party-list groups purportedly with close links to Malacañang. They were referring to the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives or Apec and the controversial' Bigkis Pinoy Movement.

The Supreme Court, in a 2001 ruling, described the party-list system as a "social justice tool designed not only to give more law to the great masses of our people who have less in life, but also to enable them to become veritable lawmakers themselves, empowered to participate directly in the enactment of laws designed to benefit them."

Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, who penned the decision, said it was "not enough for [any group] to claim representation of the marginalized and underrepresented, because representation is easy to claim and to feign."

Panganiban wrote: "In the end, the role of the Comelec is to see to it that only those Filipinos who are marginalized and underrepresented become members of Congress under the party-list system, Filipino-style."

Unfortunately, he said, "the system has been opened to those who have never gotten a foothold within it—those who cannot otherwise in regular elections and who therefore need the 'simplest scheme possible' to do so. Conversely, it would be illogical to open the system to those who have long been within it—those privileged sectors that have long dominated the congressional district elections."

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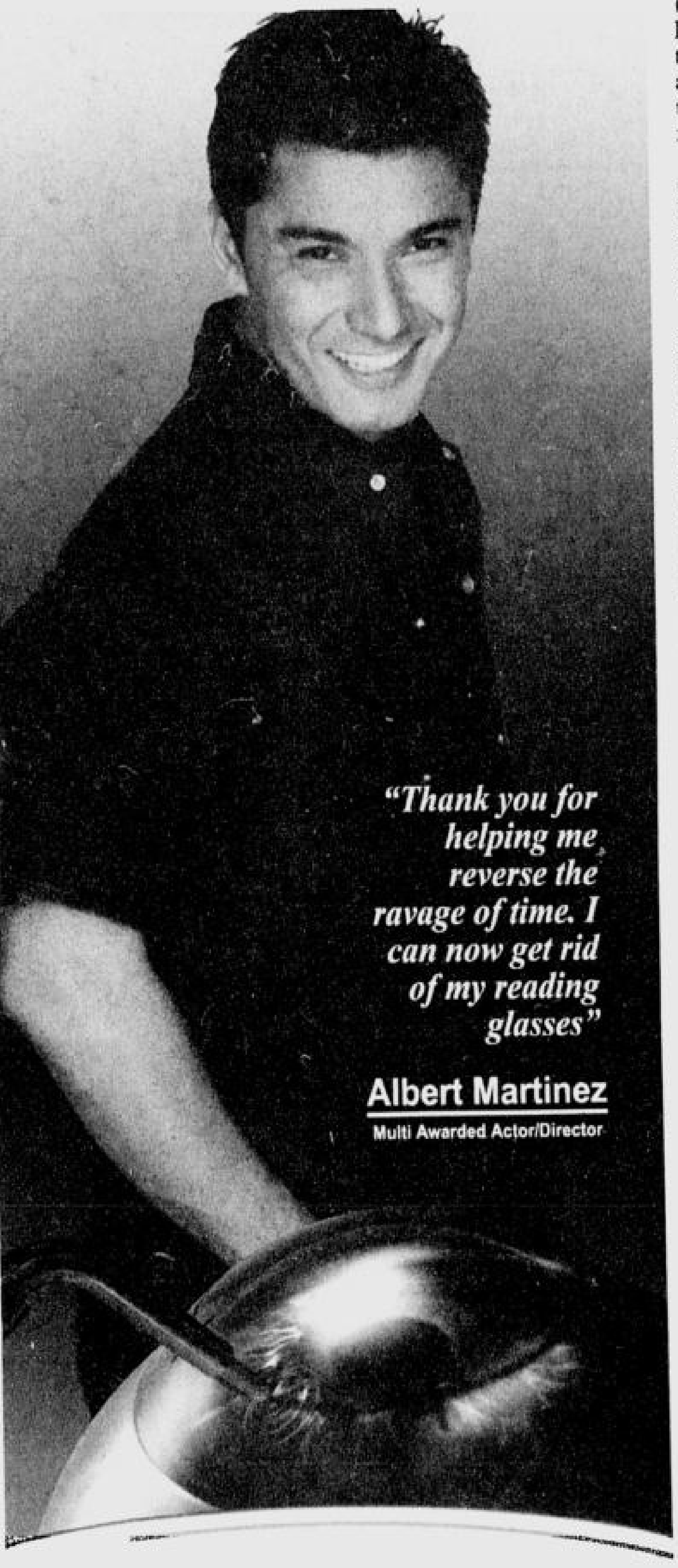
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GMA erred in choice of candidate, says MNLF

From page A1

Lakas-CMD but he was rejected.

"Modesty aside, I have all the qualifications to be chosen as administration candidate—a three-time governor, three-term congressman, concurrent deputy speaker and one of the principal authors of Republic Act No. 9054 that gave way to the creation of the expanded ARMM," he said.

Sidelined

He said Ms Arroyo's decision sidelined other potential MNLF leaders who could work for the continuation of the 1996 peace agreement between the MNLF and the Philippine government.

The agreement ended more than two decades of war between the MNLF and the government in Mindanao that left some 50,000 people dead. The accord paved the way for the creation of the ARMM.

"I fear and I could foresee very serious implications (for the peace agreement) if all the MNLF leaders backed out from the ARMM political race for valid reasons," Salapuddin said.

He said some MNLF leaders were calling for the abrogation of the agreement because they felt that the government was turning its back on its full implementation.

"The expanded ARMM is a result of the struggle of the Bangsamoro people and was nurtured with the lives and sacrifices of our people. Therefore it should have been handled with maturity that is expected from a real state leader." Salappudin said.

Insulted

Incumbent ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin said Ms Arroyo's political advisers committed a political miscalculation when they recommended to the President a candidate who has no "stabilizing potential or elements not only in the ARMM but also in the entire country."

Hussin said he felt insulted when the President's adviser required him to submit an application for screening purposes so he could be considered an administration candidate in the polls.

"Could you imagine that I was not even given the courtesy of the incumbent?" Hussin said.

Other aspirants who were not chosen by Lakas as its official candidate are Hatimil Hassan, incumbent speaker of the ARMM; Omar Ali, incumbent mayor of Marawi City and graduate of the Asian Institute of Management; and Dimas Pundato, a prominent leader in Central Mindanao.

Salappudin said the administration did not even bother to check the background of its anointed candidate for governor. "Zaldy was rehabilitated twice for drug addiction. Do they even know that?"

Contacted on his cellular phone, Ampatuan, also known as Datu Puti, said: "That's not true. We don't give importance to such allegation. I'm just campaigning now."

Hussin suspects that the Arroyo administration has a hidden agenda for not endorsing any of the six MNLF candidates for the regional elections.

Salapuddin said: "If you scratch the surface of the peace process, those who are against peace are certain sectors of the government."

Boycott and war

Ambu Amri Taddik, deputy secretary general for military affairs of the MNLF, said his men were boycotting the elections.

"The government fooled us," he said, noting that the expanded ARMM came into existence because of a provision in the 1996 peace agreement. "Not even one MNLF leader is being supported by the administration for this election?"

Taddik said the overall sentiment among MNLF supporters in the ARMM provinces, who were consulted by other MNLF commanders, was to formally reject the peace accord and to wage an armed rebellion for the right of the Bangsamoro people to govern themselves.

"They think we don't have forces anymore? The government knows that those who were absorbed into the military's integration program were only 7,500. But this is not the overall strength of the MNLF. The government also knows that our forces still hold their arms," Taddik said.

The MNLF still boasts of more than 50,000 armed supporters.

"The government knows that we believe in the peace agreement, but it has ignored us," Taddik said.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER while he was in Zamboanga meeting with Taddik and other top MNLF leaders last week, Hussin said the government desecrated the accord. "They mistreated MNLF leaders. We were just used," he said.

"I hope whoever convinced the President not to field and support the candidacy of [illegible] MNLF leaders will not regret their move," he said.

OIC

He said the meeting in Zamboanga, a few days before the ARMM elections, was aimed at consolidating MNLF forces.

"While we feel that the government abandoned the essence and content of the 1996 peace agreement, we will abide by the direction that will be laid down by the Organization of the Islamic Conference," Hussin said.

Hussin said the Philippine government's efforts to get an observer status in the OIC could be adversely affected should the MNLF be sidelined.

He said he already briefed on June 29 leaders of the OIC through the Committee of Eight on the sentiments of MNLF forces at a meeting in Northern Yemen.

Hussin said the OIC was proposing a series of meetings among ministerial committees, a tripartite review of the peace agreement, and revival of a joint monitoring committee. The OIC was also proposing a fact-finding team to Mindanao to assess the peace accord.

Salapuddin said what the government did to MNLF leaders could affect the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"The peace talks between the MILF and the GRP (government) may even be stalled indefinitely," he said. "If this situation is happening to the MNLF under the auspices of the Philippine government, it is not far that this can also happen to the MILF."

Abu says polls will be peaceful

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu said Mindanao was too far from Metro Manila to be affected by the political fight in the capital, so the elections for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao "should be safe."

"When you go down south, you cannot feel what is going on in Metro Manila ... So far, the preparations are doing [well]," Abu said.

"We have not encountered any problems. We expect to have a peaceful elections," he told the INQUIRER on Saturday.

Abu was in Baguio to attend a farewell tribute and honorary parade prepared for him by the Philippine Military Academy. However, strong rains disrupted the activities.

Abu, a member of PMA Masigasig Class of 1972, will retire on Aug. 15.

Abu said he had not received any report to suggest that the ARMM elections would be violent, noting that the candidates themselves assured him that the exercise would be peaceful. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GMA speech correct but transcript wrong

From page A1

on the speech was also in error.

"The President correctly addressed South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun during a dinner last Friday tendered in honor of visiting Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan," Bunye said in his weekly column.

In the transcript and the press release, Ms Arroyo was quoted as saying that "our country looks forward to the visit of President Cheung Wa Dae in Manila this December."

Cheung Wa Dae (Blue House) is the Malacañang Palace of South Korea.

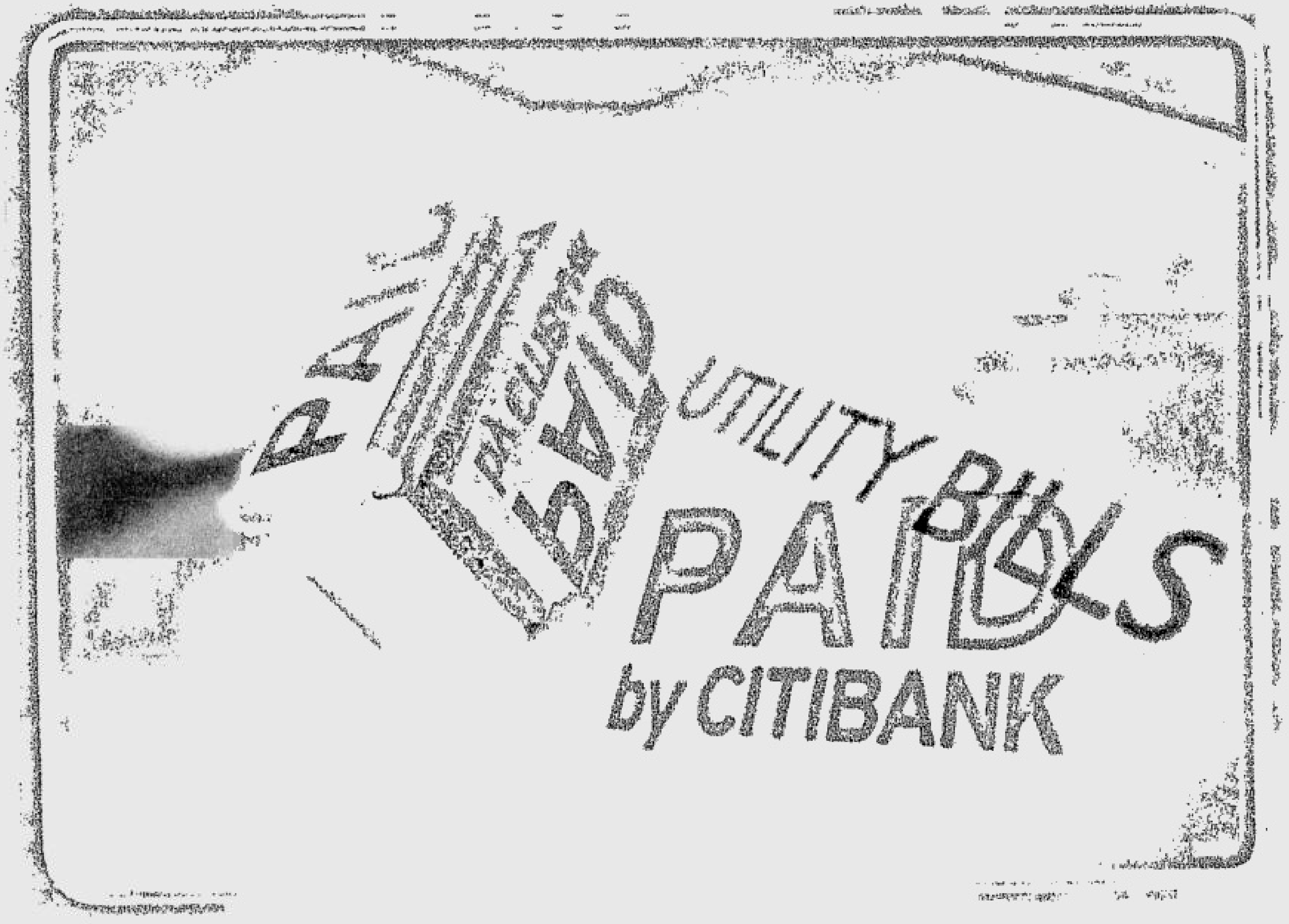
The INQUIRER report on Sunday pointed out the mistake when in fact the President was right all along.

Bunye admitted an in-house writer mistakenly prepared the release referring to the South Korean president as Cheung Wa Dae, the presidential palace.

"We are now looking into this incident," the press secretary said.

A check of her taped speech showed that Ms Arroyo did say what sounded to the INQUIRER like "President Noh" in Manila.

When asked about this, Bunye said that in the South Korean language the letter R is pronounced as the letter N. *Christine O. Avendaño*



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Roco health factor in poll plan of GMA

From page A1

the way of fulfilling his promise as a talented politician.

Roco, a relatively young politician with a luminous political record in the Senate, had resonance with a younger generation, who yearn for political leadership not captive to traditional politics built on clientelist political patronage and which feeds on widespread poverty and social inequality.

His path to the presidency had been ill-starred since 1994, when he was diagnosed as having prostate cancer. In 1998, when Roco ran for president for the first time in a field of seven, doctors pronounced him fit to perform all his public functions following a successful surgery. He came third after the immensely popular Joseph Estrada and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Tragic story

But that was only the first part of a tragic story. In the 2004 elections, Roco launched his second bid for the presidency on the vehicle of what passed for a party, Alyansa ng Pag-asa, unfazed by the fact that he had no political machine and that he faced formidable opponents in the highly popular cinema idol FPJ and in Ms Arroyo, who had the administration Lakas party machine behind her.

On Dec. 30, 2002, Ms Arroyo, just a year after she assumed the presidency from Estrada who was ousted by People Power II, stunned the nation when she announced that she was not running in the May 2004 elections. Her reasons were vague. I was in Manila then, and I investigated what prompted the extraordinary decision by interviewing people close to Malacañang.

At the time, opinion polls showed that Ms Arroyo's trust and confidence ratings had sunk to alarming levels.

There were doubts in the media whether Ms Arroyo could win the presidential election. I learned through the interviews that at the end of 2000, the President was in a state of gloom, caused by increasing criticisms of her administration and by deepening divisions in the country.

Influence peddling

Ms Arroyo said she hoped that her decision would heal the divisions. But the unstated reason, which everyone was interested in, was that it had something to do with her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, who was increasingly becoming the magnet of allegations of influence peddling.

I learned that the President during the Christmas retreat in Baguio City, feared that if she ran for election, she might be the target of mudslinging that would have poisoned the atmosphere in the run-up to the presidential election.

True enough, in 2003, the Jose Pidal case, which implicated her husband to alleged corrupt practices, was investigated by the Senate. The inquiry failed to establish the First Gentleman's link to Jose Pidal, an assumed name whose secret bank accounts allegedly held more than P200 million in campaign contributions.

In October 2003, the President reversed her decision not to run. She came under criticism for not keeping her word. What caused the change of mind? Roco.

Back in Manila in April 2004 for a break from a fellowship at the Australian National University, I interviewed people close to the strategy decision group mapping out the President's campaign. They told me that as early as October 2003, the President had received confidential political intelligence that Roco's health was deteriorating rather than improving.

In the first quarter of 2004, a survey showed that Poe was leading with 37.5 percent, Ms Arroyo was running second with 28.7 percent. Roco was third with 17.4 percent and Sen. Panfilo Lacson fourth with 8.4 percent.

Lakas machinery

Faced with the prospect of a runaway win by Poe, the President considered a team-up with Roco as a way to counter Poe's lead. But the President, who took into account the health of Roco, later ruled out a coalition with him, according to my sources.

In fact, Roco was adamant in not sliding down as running mate of Ms Arroyo. In view of these developments and the political arithmetic, the sources said the President decided on a campaign strategy without Roco and relied on strengthening Lakas' grassroots-based machinery.

On April 13, 2004, Roco went to the United States to seek treatment for what he described as "chronic low-back pain," which, he said, could be "debilitating." He assured the public that he was not quitting the campaign. He returned on April 28 "determined to right the wrong in this country."

His leave proved disastrous. In the official poll results, Ms Arroyo won with 40 percent of the votes, Poe was second with 36.5 percent, and Roco fourth with 6.5 percent, down from his 17 percent to 18 percent in the surveys of April. Roco's vote did not swing significantly toward Ms Arroyo's column.

Dying political order

Roco's campaign never took off from late 2003. Although he held on to poll ratings close to 20 percent until late April, he never attracted campaign funds, probably because of the perception that he could not win.

He had complained about lack of funds, although there was widespread perception in the educated political and middle class that he was the best qualified for the presidency. He had resonance with the younger voters but in the 2004 elections, political pragmatism prevailed.

Ms Arroyo went on to win with a strategy built on the Lakas machine, offsetting Poe's charisma and popularity. This redrew the political map of the election.

The tragedy of Roco is not that he succumbed to cancer. It lies in the fact that disease stifled his promise of recasting the mold of Philippine politics and opening it to the entry of a younger generation of idealistic Filipinos seeking redemption from the clutches of the old and dying political order.

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RP's Air Force soars on airmen's ingenuity

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Ingenuity has done it again for the Philippine Air Force.

On Friday, amid a light drizzle, the PAF's 410th Maintenance Wing drafted back into active duty four newly restored aircraft and saved for the government about P32 million in repair costs.

The 410th's logo and its motto, "We Restore," stood in mute testimony as two battle-scarred UH-1H Huey helicopters, an SF-206M Marchetti and a Cessna 150 debuted at the wing's B-5 hangar before Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, PAF commander.

Like proud fathers, the pool of aircraft specialists responsible for plucking the aircraft out of untimely retirement stood beside their "babies." They shied away from media attention, though, preferring to be anonymous.

"They're experts at this type of work and I'm very proud of them," said Reyes after guests splashed champagne on the aircraft.

The PAF, also known in the Armed Forces of the Philippines as the "Shields in the Sky," has indeed become a master at repairs.

It's a reputation that Reyes said he was comfortable with.

"We don't have the money to buy new ones because our finances cannot really afford it," he said. "As I tell them, let's make do with what we have and utilize the ingenuity of our people."

In the PAF, it is only the 410th Maintenance Wing that undertakes depot level maintenance, the highest type of work done for any aircraft in the fleet of the AFP, said Brig. Gen. Fernando Manalo, wing commander.

Limited restoration

But the restoration expertise, Manalo said, was limited to Hueys, Marchettis, S-76 or Sikorsky helicopters and LC210 and T41D trainer aircraft.

The Huey 518 took two months to repair. Heavy firing by communist rebels left the chopper with 48 bullet holes during a June 10 mission in Tuba, Benguet, where it picked up wounded soldiers, ferried supplies and performed clearing fire.

Also damaged were its two rotor blades, main rotor mast tube, center and right hand aft fuel cells, fuel line hoses, engine oil return line hose, and parts of the tail boom assembly.

The Huey 775 took 42 days to overhaul its instrument radio and electrical components while the Cessna 224 required 112 parts replaced since March this year.

Like it did with other aircraft, the PAF mechanics salvaged old but serviceable parts.

"Carcasses," were how Col. Rotillo Bautista, the wing's operations chief, described the spare parts.

Airworthy, capable

The Marchetti 627 experienced complete power failure in May 2004. Grounded since then, the trainer plane was shipped to the wing in February. Specialists identified 173 items needing replacement.

After several test flights and other tests, all four aircraft are now "very airworthy" and "mission capable," Bautista said.

"They're almost brand new," Reyes said, allaying fears of mechanical accidents.

Normally, he said, the repair of each aircraft would cost a maximum of P12 million if done abroad, including freight and insurance costs.

The repair expenditure dropped to about P4 million per aircraft through the 410th Maintenance Wing, he said.

"You can just imagine we are saving the government about 60 percent of the cost," Reyes said.

He said the restoration project brought to 45 the number of UH-1Hs in the PAF's fleet.

The newly restored Marchetti plane will be taken to the PAF flying school at Fernando Air Base in Lipa City.

The Cessna, Reyes said, will be used for administrative flights and delivering spare parts.

He said the PAF's restoration program began through the self-reliance development group that was initiated in 1974.

Reyes said they resort to repairs and acquisition of used aircraft to sustain the operations of the PAF, the youngest branch in the country's military service, having been organized from the Philippine Army Air Corps in 1947.

Modernization, Reyes said, would be a long shot.

He said they would need "lots and lots of money" to buy new aircraft and radar and build modern runways.

For example, he said, the 36 fighter planes the PAF needs to replace its fleet of old F5 fighter jets would cost $35 million (P1.95 billion) each. He said five air defense radars required across the country would also cost $30 million each.

"We need money not only for the AFP but for the all government agencies to be able to fully perform to people's expectations," Reyes said.

ONE OF the two Huey helicopters restored by the PAF's 410th Maintenance Wing. TONETTE OREJAS/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Lose cash at Naia? It may still be there

WHETHER loose bills or wads of cash inadvertently left behind by passengers, Bureau of Customs personnel at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport have a pretty good record of turning in found currency.

The BOC currently has a total of $899 in its safekeeping, Mimel Talusan, chief of the customs passenger arrival office at the Naia, told reporters in an interview Friday.

They are in varying denominations and currencies, she said, such as the Thai baht.

"Regardless of the amount, you can expect our personnel to turn over the money they find," Talusan said, citing an incident when even $49 was turned over by a customs examiner.

On Friday, Talusan and Naia Customs Collector Ricardo Belmonte handed over $1,900 in cash to *balikbayan* couple Bernardo and Remedios Bawi-in, who lost the money at the airport last year.

Customs examiner Norieta Abarintos found the money and turned it over to Talusan.

Talusan expressed hope that these little acts of honesty at the BOC could help change the public perception that the agency is one of the most corrupt in the government.

Talusan said passengers who lost money at the airport can check to see if any of the cash was theirs.

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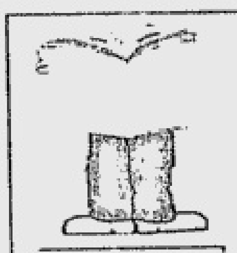

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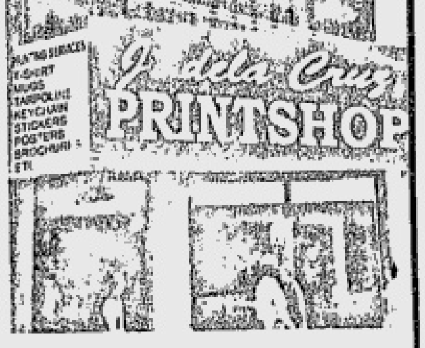

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The following are the finalists for the 2005 SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING JUDGES, CLERKS OF COURT AND OTHER JUDICIAL OFFICERS:

A. Outstanding Second Level Court Judges

1. Bay, Teodoro A.
2. Cornejo, Maria Cristina J.
3. Domingo-Regala, Leah S.
4. Dumdum, Jr., Simeon P.
5. Farrales, Josefina D.
6. Lloren, Edgardo T.
7. Lopez, Mario V.
8. Macaraig-Guillen, Marissa
9. Paredes, Victoria Isabel A.
10. Tanguanco, Eduardo I.
11. Villasor, Edwin A.

B. Outstanding First Level Court Judges

1. Bastasa, Ric. S.
2. Cortes, Paz Esperanza M.
3. Escovilla, Antonina B.
4. Gomez-Estoesta, Ma. Theresa Dolores C.
5. Quilala, Francisco Roberto D.
6. Quimpo-Sale, Angelene Mary W.

C. Outstanding Clerks of Court

1. Arañas, Yvonne D.
2. Ariosa-Edralin, Geraldine L.
3. Arsenio, Evelyn D.
4. Casiño, Ana Candida N.
5. Damasing, Carolyn C.
6. Dela Cruz-Buendia, Jennifer H.
7. Echem, Chitchi V.
8. Leuterio, Annie May B.
9. Maagad, Margarita C.
10. Mirabueno, Joyce Kho
11. Orquillas, Sheila Marie G.
12. Perez, Hazel O.
13. Pingao, Fredelito G.
14. Rabo, Gary S
15. Simpao-Taguilaso, Marichu Teresa
16. Villanueva, Ildefonso M.
17. Zabat-Tuazon, Maria Zoraida S.

The public may submit any comments on the abovementioned finalists on or before 31 AUGUST 2005, to the:

The Permanent Secretariat
Committee on Judicial Excellence
4th Floor, Multi-Purpose Building
Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila
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(SGD.) MA. LUISA L. LAUREA
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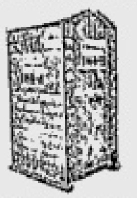
Committee on Judicial Excellence



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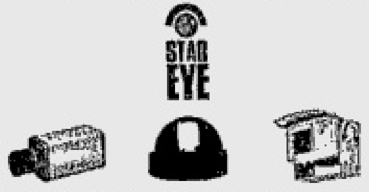
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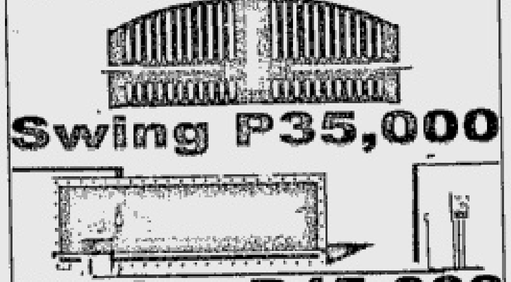
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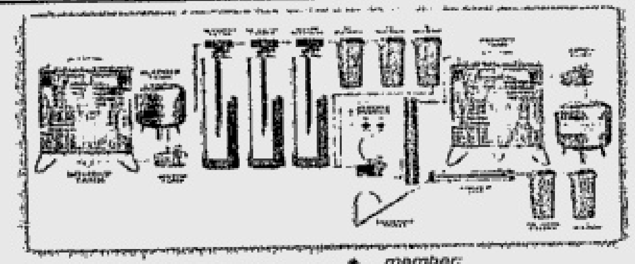
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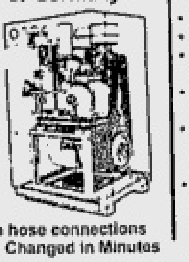
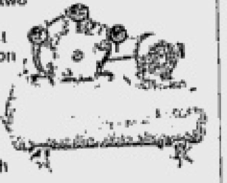

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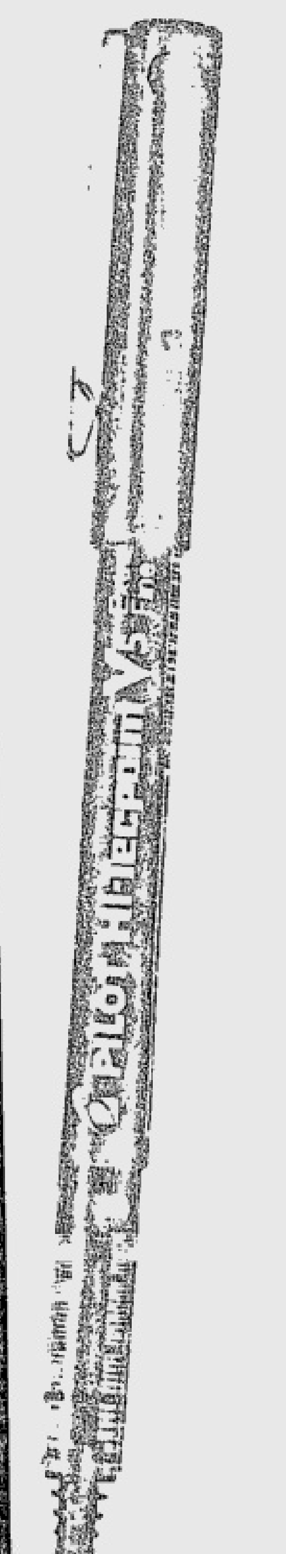
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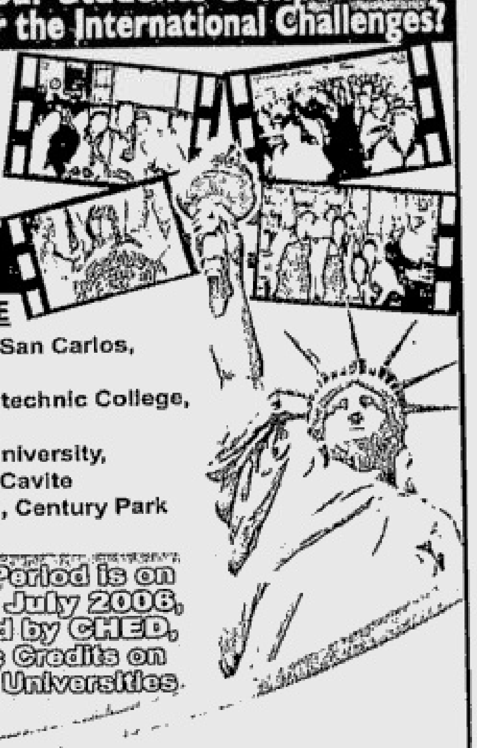
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Trapped Russian mini-sub, crew of 7 rescued in Pacific

PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY, Russia — A Russian mini-submarine that was trapped for nearly three days under the Pacific Ocean surfaced Sunday with all seven people aboard alive after a British remote-controlled vehicle cut away the undersea cables that had snarled it.

All seven aboard the AS-28 mini-submarine appeared to be in satisfactory condition, naval spokesperson Capt. Igor Dygalo said. They were examined in the clinic of a naval ship, then transferred to a larger vessel to return to the mainland.

"The crew opened the hatch themselves, exited the vessel and climbed aboard a speedboat," Rear Adm. Vladimir Pepelyayev, deputy head of the naval general staff, told reporters. "Preliminary indications are that their condition is satisfactory."

"I can only thank our English colleagues for their joint work and the help they gave in order to complete this operation within the time we had available—that is, before the oxygen reserves ran out," he said.

Yelena Milashevskaya, the wife of crew member Lt. Vyacheslav Milashevsky, was overjoyed to get word that her husband was alive.

"My feelings danced. I was happy, I cried," she told Channel One television.

The sub surfaced at around 4:26 p.m. local time, some three days after becoming stranded in 190 meters of water off the Pacific Coast. It was carrying six sailors and a representative of the company that manufactured it.

Earlier, a British remote-controlled Super Scorpio cut away the cables that had snarled the 44-foot mini-submarine in Beryozovaya Bay, about 15 km off the east coast of the Kamchatka peninsula.

The British vehicle was sent after the Russian navy made an urgent appeal for international help—unlike during the August 2000 sinking of the nuclear submarine Kursk, when authorities held off asking for outside assistance for days. All 118 aboard the Kursk died.

The men aboard the small submarine waited out tense hours as rescuers raced to free them before the vessel's air supply ran out. The sailors put on thermal suits to shield them against temperatures of about 5 degrees Celsius and had only sporadic contact with the surface in order to conserve electricity, officials said.

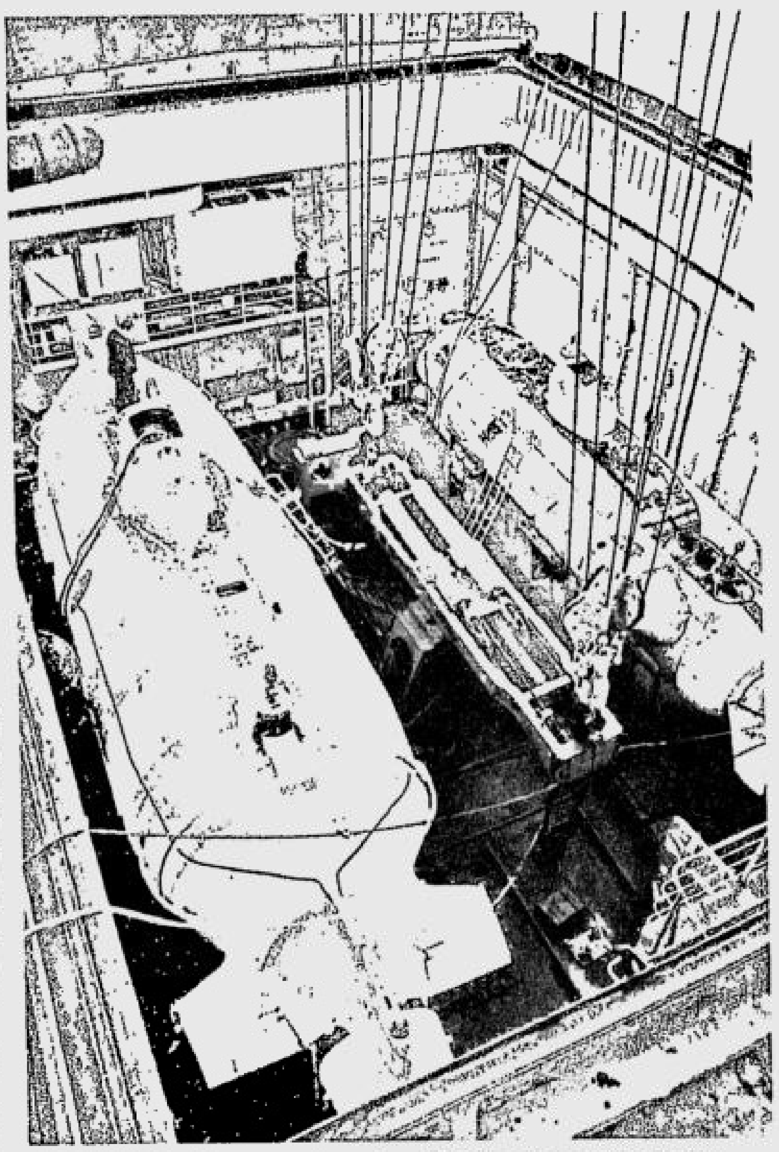
"The crew were steadfast, very professional," Pepelyayev said on Channel One television. "Their self-possession allowed them to conserve the air and wait for the rescue operation."

The United States also dispatched a crew and three underwater vehicles to Kamchatka at Russia's request, but they were not deployed at the accident site.

In an echo of the Kursk sinking, President Vladimir Putin had made no public comment by Sunday on the mini-sub drama. Putin remained on vacation as the Kursk disaster unfolded, prompting criticism that he appeared either callous or ineffectual.

Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov traveled to Kamchatka on Saturday.

Officials said the mini-submarine was participating in a combat training exercise Thursday when it got caught on an underwater antenna assembly that is part of a coastal monitoring system. The system was anchored with a weight of about 60 metric tons. *AP*



A RUSSIAN mini rescue submarine, AS-34, called a Priz, left, the same type as the mini-sub trapped Friday on the Pacific floor, is seen aboard the rescue ship Rudnetsky during the rescue efforts that followed the nuclear submarine Kursk disaster in the Barents Sea in this Aug. 17, 2000 photo. The mini-submarine at right is an AS-32 type.

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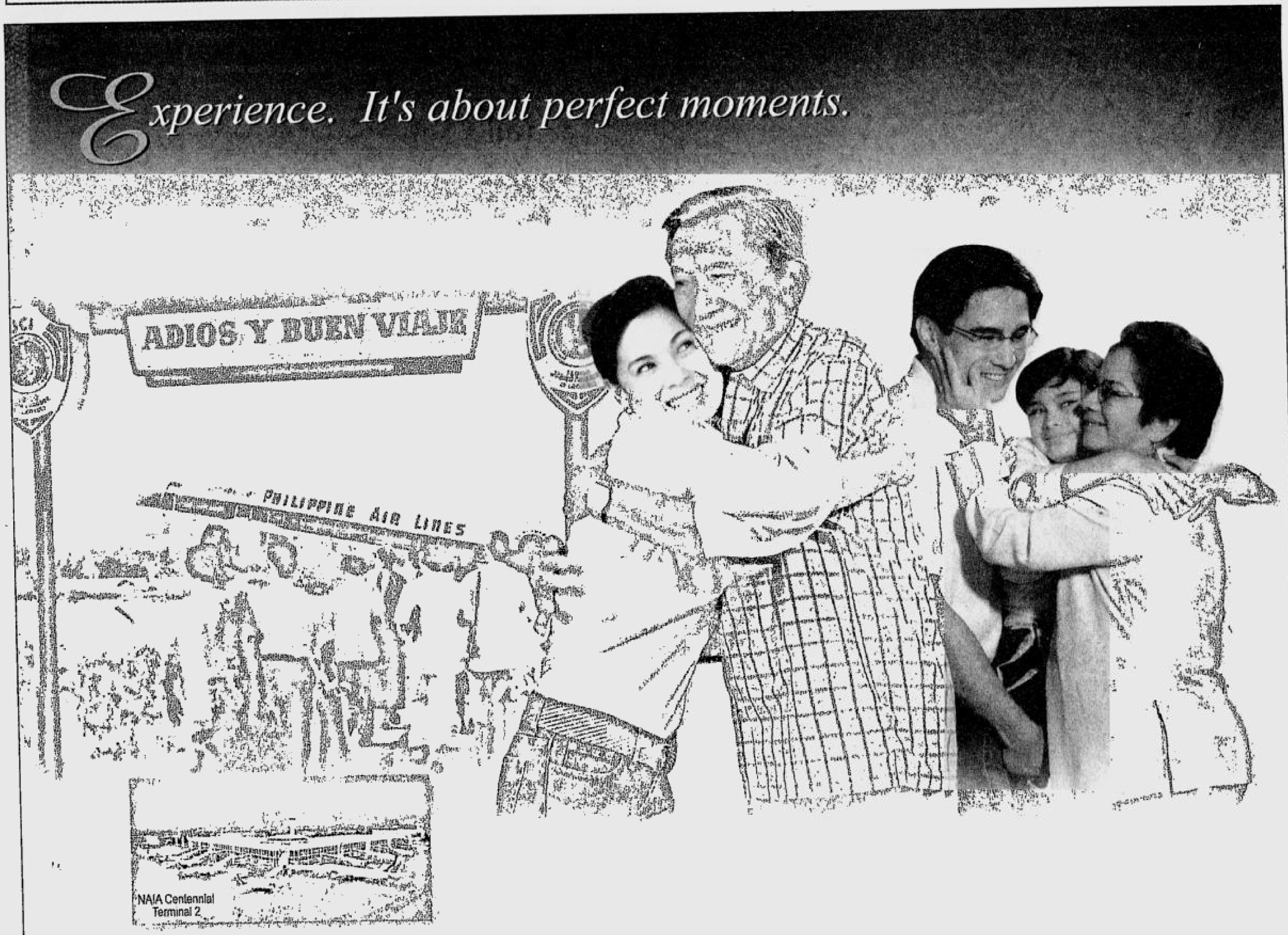

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Bush rating on Iraq hits lowest ever

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush took a political beating this weekend after a second opinion poll, taken after a spike in US casualties in Iraq, showed a sharp drop in public support for his Iraq policy.

The survey by Newsweek magazine indicated only 34 percent of Americans approved of the way Bush was handling the situation in Iraq while 61 percent expressed their disapproval.

The findings, made public Saturday, represented the president's lowest rating on Iraq ever, which thus far has hovered above the 40-percent mark.

They echoed a sampling conducted this past week by Ipsos-Public Affairs for the Associated Press, which indicated that just 38 percent of respondents approved of what Bush is doing in Iraq while 59 percent disapproved of the policies and two percent had mixed feelings about them.

At least 38 US military personnel have died in Iraq in the last 10 days—in one of the deadliest outbreaks of insurgent violence since the March 2003 US-led invasion of the country.

Iraqi insurgents mounted one of their most spectacular attacks on Wednesday when a powerful roadside bomb blew up a US armored personnel carrier near the northwest town of Haditha, killing 14 Marines on board.

As of Saturday, the overall death toll for the US military in Iraq stood at 1,823, according to the Pentagon tally.

The count did not include two US soldiers killed later in the day in a bomb attack near Samarra.

Bush moved on Wednesday to cushion an anticipated backlash against his policies as he assured in a speech in Grapevine, Texas, that his administration had "a strategy for success" in Iraq.

"And the families can know that we will honor their loved one's sacrifice by completing the mission, by laying the foundations for peace for generations to come," the president said.

The Newsweek survey showed the plea may have fallen on deaf ears.

Reflecting a gloomy mood setting in in the country, half of those polled said the United States was losing ground in its efforts to establish security and democracy in Iraq. Only 40 percent had the opposite point of view.

The previously rock-solid commitment to maintaining a US military presence in the country for as long as it would be necessary to establish a stable and democratic government there also appears to have been shaken.

Just 26 percent of those polled now said they supported keeping large numbers of US military personnel in Iraq for as long as it takes to achieve US goals.

Thirty-eight percent argued they would support keeping troops there less than a year while 13 percent were willing to maintain that commitment for up to two years, according to the survey.

As much as 12 percent said troops should be brought home now.

Even prominent supporters of the president are now expressing concern how the mounting US death toll in Iraq will affect next year's congressional elections.

"When you wake up in the morning and lose 14 Marines, people say, 'What's going on?'" Newt Gingrich, a former speaker of the House of Representatives and now a prominent Republican ideologue told The New York Times. "This is a very complicated equation."

Overall, a 51-percent majority now disapproves of the way Bush is handling his job as president, up from 48 percent registered in the March, the Newsweek survey showed.

The president's job disapproval rating in the Ipsos-Public Affairs poll was even higher—55 percent.

The Newsweek poll of 1,004 adults conducted on August 2-4 had a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points. The margin of error for the Ipsos-Public Affairs survey conducted August 1-3 was 3.1 percent. *AFP*

Ex-British FM Cook dies after mountain hike

COOK

LONDON—Former British foreign secretary Robin Cook, the passionate Labour Party parliamentarian who angrily quit Prime Minister Tony Blair's government over the Iraq war, died Saturday after collapsing while hiking with his second wife Gaynor on a mountain in his native Scotland.

His death was announced by police after Cook, 59, was airlifted by helicopter from Ben Stack in the Highlands following his collapse on the rugged peak during his summer holiday.

In a statement, Blair paid tribute to Cook as "an outstanding, extraordinary talent—brilliant, incisive in debate, of incredible skill and persuasive power."

During his four years at the Foreign Office to 2001, Cook forged an "ethical" foreign policy for Britain, and supported Nato's 1999 intervention in war-torn Kosovo to wrest the mainly ethnic Albanian province from Serbia's control.

But he chose to quit Blair's government two days before the US and British invasion of Iraq in March 2003 that led to Saddam Hussein's downfall, saying: "I cannot support a war without international agreement or domestic support."

He easily won reelection in his central Scotland constituency of Livingstone in the general election last May that put Blair and Labour back in power for a third straight term.

No longer a cabinet minister, he was a prolific commentator in the press, and many political analysts expected him to make a comeback after the anticipated resignation of Blair to make way for Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown.

Born near Glasgow, the only child of a science teacher, Cook held a number of senior posts when Labour was in opposition to the Conservative Party, including shadow health and social security secretary, shadow foreign secretary and chairman of the Labour Party.

When Labour swept to victory in 1997, Blair promptly appointed Cook as his foreign secretary, and in that job he played a key role in Britain's military interventions in Kosovo alongside Nato and in war-racked Sierra Leone.

His roughest moment as foreign secretary involved his personal life, when the tabloid press revealed that Cook had a mistress, Gaynor Regan, who was living in his London flat.

Blair told Cook to end either the relationship or his 28-year marriage. He opted for the latter, dumping his first wife Margaret, the mother of his two sons, at the airport in London as they were about to depart on holiday. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Suicide car bomber kills 5 in Tikrit

TIKRIT, Iraq—A suicide car bomber killed at least five people and wounded 15 in an attack on an Iraqi police headquarters in the northern town of Tikrit on Sunday, police sources said. Men volunteering to join the force had been crowding the area at the time, they added. Tikrit is the home town of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and lies in the heartlands of the once dominant Sunni Arab minority, some of whom have risen against the new Shiite-led government and the US military occupation. Suicide attacks have been a frequent tactic against Iraq's police and army recruits, who form a key part of Washington's strategy for withdrawing many of its own troops. *Reuters*

Koizumi may call general election

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi may call a general election as early as Monday if he loses a crunch vote on his signature reforms of breaking up the post office, officials and news reports said. Major newspapers predicted on Sunday that the legislation to privatize the powerful post office is most likely to be voted down on Monday in the 242-member upper house with dissenting votes from Koizumi's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Koizumi, who has made the reforms the cornerstone of his domestic agenda, has repeatedly said a rejection would be a vote of no confidence in him and would automatically lead to an early election. *AFP*

Stalled N. Korean talks take recess

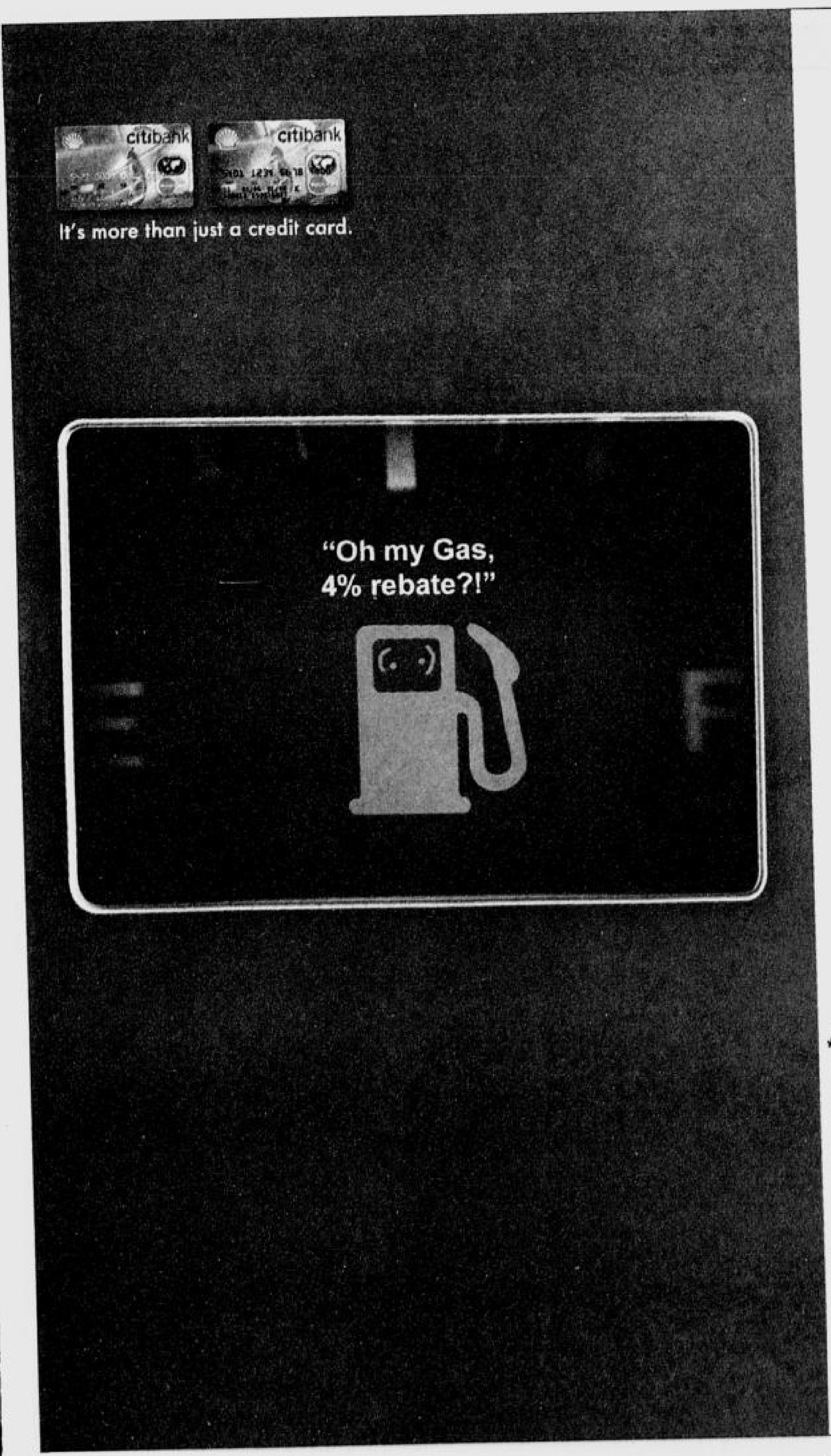
BEIJING—North Korean nuclear weapons talks were broken off for three weeks Sunday with no sight of progress over Pyongyang's insistence on having atomic reactors for energy, a demand the United States rejected. The six-nation talks with China, South Korea, Japan and Russia went into the recess still deadlocked over the Stalinist north's nuclear ambitions, despite a fortnight of intense and wearying negotiation in the Chinese capital. Talks were to resume the week of Aug. 29 but with the US and North Korea again trading barbs, it was unclear how to move forward in the three-year standoff with North Korea, which again said it was making nuclear weapons. *AFP*

Taiwan considers wind power

TAIPEI—Taiwan's state power company is planning ambitious wind-generated electricity projects estimated to cost at least 120 billion Taiwan dollars (US$3.76 billion) as oil prices hit record levels, an official said Sunday. The government has demanded that electricity generated from renewable sources, including hydraulic, wind and solar power, should account for 10 percent of domestic supply by 2011, up from the present 5.45 percent, with wind-generated electricity totalling an estimated 216 megawatts. "As hydraulic power is nearly saturated here after decades of development and solar power is not really commercially viable, wind power is the most potential source of clean energy for the decade ahead," Chen Wu-hsiung, head of the wind power development unit of Taiwan Power Co. (Taipower), said. *AFP*

Most Malaysian men only want 1 wife

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Muslim men are allowed four wives under Islamic law, but a survey has found that the majority are satisfied with just one spouse, a report said Sunday. The poll of 13,000 Malaysians by the Universiti Putra Malaysia showed that nearly 90 percent of Muslim men are one-woman men, while only five percent have two wives and 4.3 percent have three, the New Straits Times reported. Couples interviewed by the newspaper told of their lasting marriages and their recipes for a happy partnership. "You marry just once, that's all. You don't marry another for no reason. When you're contented with one person, why should you take another?" said Zainal Ibrahim, 71. His spouse, Norshidah, 68, said a wife had to focus on her husband's strengths and acknowledge her own imperfections. "Now women think they are equal. I don't agree. You must always respect your husband and know your place," she was quoted as telling the newspaper. Islam's Sharia laws vary from state to state in Muslim-majority Malaysia, but they generally require the signed consent of a man's first wife before he is allowed to take a second. Although Islam permits a man to marry up to four wives, he has to prove he has the financial means and ability to treat all wives equally. *AFP*



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Witness weakness

EDITORIAL

THE POLITICAL opposition's entire case in the *jueteng* payola issue, including the alleged involvement of the President's family, is based on the testimony of a number of witnesses. Therein lies its weakness.

The presence of Archbishop Oscar Cruz at the Senate hearings—and his repeated vouching for the credibility of the witnesses—is only an apparent strength; his participation does not, by itself, confirm the truth of the various testimonies.

To be sure, an elusive criminal enterprise like the illegal numbers racket does not depend on paperwork, such as purchase orders or memoranda of agreement, that can be subpoenaed. And some of the testimony presented during the seven hearings have proven useful; it is clear that jueteng has made a comeback in some areas, and that some form of local connivance, either on the part of the police or the local government, or both, is responsible for it.

But the evidence for the involvement of the Arroyos in the same racket that brought down the previous and more popular president is based entirely on the word of three witnesses. Two of them have offered what essentially amounts to hearsay; the third said she actually delivered the money to Rep. Mikey Arroyo, the President's son, and Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, the First Gentleman's brother, on at least two occasions. But again, it is her word; the only documentary evidence she could offer proved that she had deposited money in a police general's account.

This is not to say that the two Arroyo congressmen and even the President's husband were not involved in some form in the illegal numbers game; only that, if they were in fact involved, this is not the kind of evidence that could convict them in a court of law. (In the court of public opinion, of course, and if we read the results of the latest surveys of both Pulse Asia and the Social Weather Stations correctly, all three have already been found guilty.)

Now, one of Archbishop Cruz's witnesses, Richard Garcia, has executed a rather melodramatic turnabout. He has not exactly recanted his previous testimony, but he has alleged that opposition senator and ex-presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson had urged him to implicate the Arroyos.

Lacson has since denied Garcia's allegation, and has taken pains to identify Garcia as the archbishop's witness. In one television interview, he even went as far as to say that Garcia was being "handled" by Archbishop Cruz; the word has a special meaning in police work and Lacson, of course, was once chief of the Philippine National Police.

Both Garcia and Archbishop Cruz, however, have said that Garcia had first surfaced through Lacson, and that it was Lacson who actually introduced Garcia to the anti-jueteng prelate. In other words, and as far as the "handling" of Garcia was concerned, he was eminently Lacson's witness.

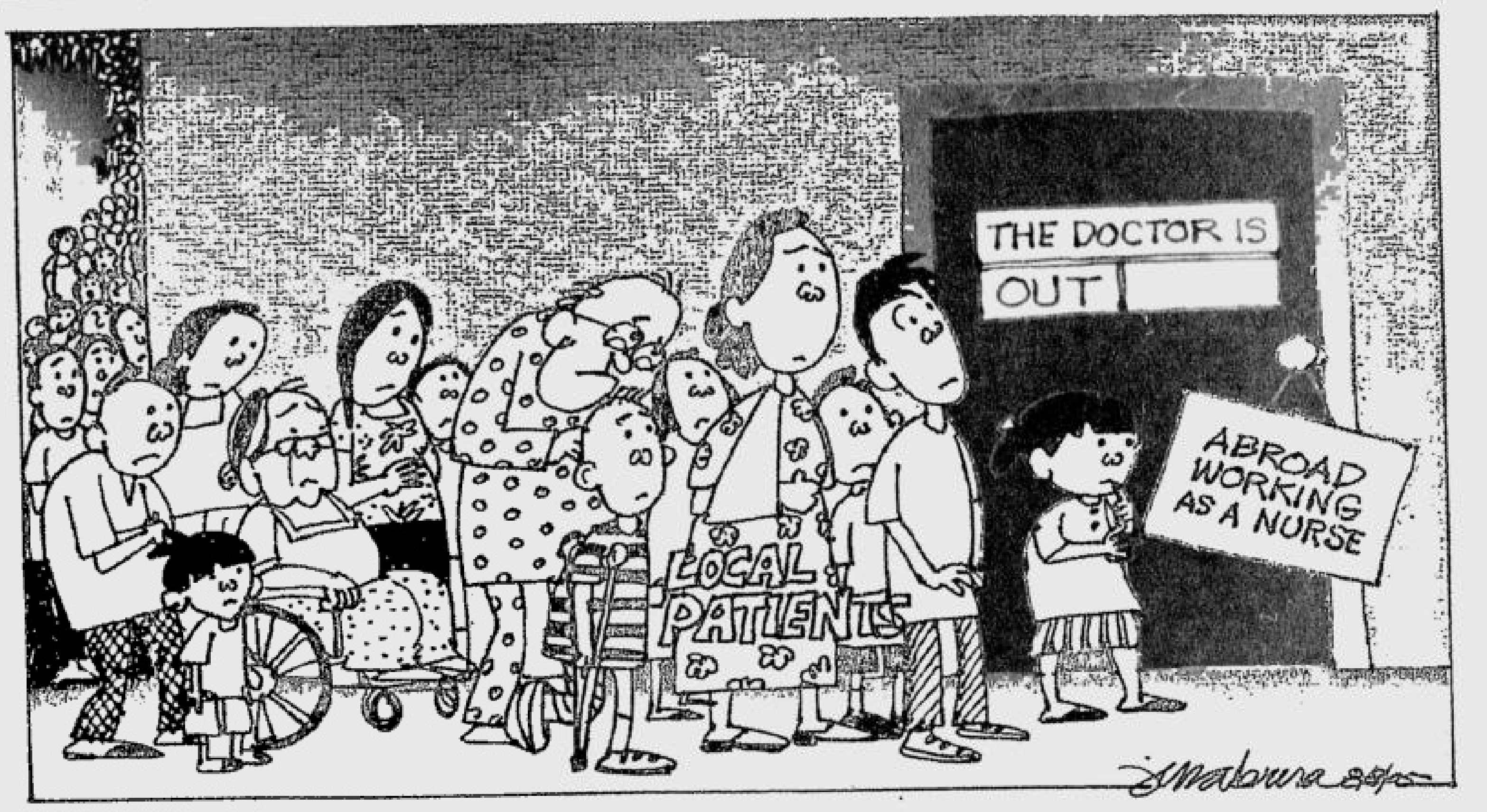
The twists and turns of this part of the case have started to loop themselves around Lacson; he now has to extricate himself. But the senator's predicament aside, the larger question has to do with the political opposition's jueteng payola case. A weak case has just been made weaker; how did the opposition find itself in this situation?

The answer, in part, lies in our tendency to build cases on personal testimony rather than physical evidence. (It is a tendency shared not only by opposition leaders but by police officers, NBI agents, government officials, even journalists in search of a good story.) The problem with depending on just the words of witnesses is that a lone witness' recantation undermines everything else; physical evidence, such as the paper and electronic trail deposed President Joseph Estrada actually left behind, does not have that kind of vulnerability.

The opposition's long wait for ex-Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. is yet another symptom of this disease, another sign of investigative unimaginativeness.

Now consider the other alleged impeachable offense that hangs over the President's head: betrayal of public trust through election fraud. There is a wealth of possible evidence that can be mined if only those who feel most betrayed actually buckle down to work, by following up leads in the Garcillano tapes or Michaelangelo Zuce's affidavit. The opposition's tedious task is to tie the knots in a definite pattern; that is how a net is made.

But maybe the opposition is too busy chasing the next I-promise-to-tell-all witness?



There's enough business for two quarreling IPPs

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST Friday, Aug. 5, we wrote here about an independent power producer (IPP) called Power One Corp. that, according to the congressman of Oriental Mindoro, has a capitalization of only P1.56 million and cash of P14,000 on hand. Nevertheless, this IPP landed a contract with the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Ormeco) to build an P800-million power plant to provide electricity for the whole province. (The contract is being reviewed by the Energy Regulatory Commission for approval or rejection.)

Not true, "(w)e are fully capable of executing our power supply agreements," said Power One in a letter hand-delivered last Saturday and signed by its president, Facundo R. Yeneza. There was no statement as to how much capital the company has or how much is its cash on hand.

But the letter stated that Rep. Rodolfo Valencia and his lawyer Dante Manzo were referring to "outdated and incorrect information. We have corrected these during the mentioned public hearing in Calapan" (Oriental Mindoro).

To be fair to Power One, I will quote extensively from its letter:

"1. Power One through its project company, Mid-Islands Power Generation, is almost complete with our 9-megawatt Phase 1, which we will commission in 10 days. This P100-million phase is being completed from internal equity and with no bank loans. For the P250-million phase 2, we already have the generating equipment. Any accusation of financial or technical incapacity is belied by these facts."

(Question: Why did it go ahead with the project when the contract has not yet been approved by the ERC? Has it been assured that the contract would sail through the ERC with the greatest of ease? Why? What will happen to its investment if the contract is disapproved?)

"2. Power One's rate is lower than the rate of Mirant Philippines (which has a contract with Ormeco, which has still a number of years to run; for which reason, it is protesting the new contract with Power One) by at least 8 percent on base-load to base-load basis. Mirant's contract is only for 7.5 MW.

"3. The Power Supply Agreement between Power One and Ormeco had been certified by no less than the Department of Energy as compliant with the competitive selection process in its endorsement dated February 11, 2005. This compliance was re-certified by the Department of Energy in July 8, 2005."

(Note: There was no public bidding done prior to the awarding of the contract to Power One.)

"4. In fairness to our client Ormeco, we don't believe they ever intended to eliminate Mirant's 7.5-MW power facility. Power One was asked to install only 28 MW of the 35 MW that is needed by the province of Oriental Mindoro in preparation for the pullout of Napocor as part of the missionary subsidy reduction program. The Mirant contract, however, failed to comply with the conditions precedent for effectivity and failed to deliver half of the contracted energy in the last five years.

"5. Ormeco, we understand, has been asking Mirant to eliminate the onerous provisions in the contract to protect its member-consumers. Among these are the take-or-pay-provision which results in PPA charges similar to Mirant's Sual and Pagbilao contracts with Napocor. (Question: If there are "onerous" provisions, why did Ormeco sign the contract in the first place? Having signed it, it is duty-bound to follow the terms of the contract until its expiration.) Mirant is also demanding that Ormeco reinstate its commitment to buy 48 MW (of power) a year which is equivalent to 40 percent of the province's energy needs even if Mirant is committing to maintain only a 7.5 MW plant, which is 20 percent of the 35-MW installed capacity requirement of the province.

"6. Power One's core technical team has done 750-MW diesel power projects and has an average of 20 years experience. It is one of the most qualified in the country. Power One's former president was president of the IPP association, of which Mirant was a member.

"7. Power One is proud of the long-term, competitive solutions it is bringing to the province of Oriental Mindoro. To reduce power costs, Power One will be developing renewable energy in the province within three years and connect the island to the Luzon grid through a 69 KV submarine system by 2010. This is the correct solution (for) the province so that it will benefit from the open access market of Luzon.

"8. As the power market becomes deregulated and competitive, behemoth IPPs, (which) have been spoiled by their cash-guzzling onerous contracts with Napocor, must learn how to compete on price and service. Mirant must accept that, even for a company of their size, they cannot win them all and if they do a bad job they can lose a customer."

* * *

After examining the controversy, I don't understand why Mirant and Power One are quarreling when there is enough business in the province for both of them. Mirant's contract is for 40 percent of the province's electric requirements. The other 60 percent is being given to Power One. There is enough for both of them.

I think the reason is greed—on the part of both parties. Mirant is afraid another power supplier would get some of its business. Or, perhaps, it plans to supply the additional 60 percent itself. Power One, on the other hand, although it already has 60 percent, still plans to expand its capacity to 80 percent. Mirant therefore suspects Power One plans to take away 20 percent of its 40-percent share. Greed!

Another thing I don't understand is that there are hundreds of other islands in the Philippines needing electricity. So why doesn't one of them go to these islands instead of the two of them crowding Oriental Mindoro?

A good man

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE LAST time I saw Raul Roco was late last year at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. He was there, along with people who still knew how to be grateful, to bear witness to the induction of a few more Filipinos into the nation's pantheon of heroes. Among them was a good friend of his, Bobbit Sanchez. Raul looked so much better than he did during the campaign, and I told him so. He was pleased with my assessment and said that was probably because he still had much to do.

Alas, his sojourn on earth would not remain long. I would hear from Vic, Bobbit's son, that days before Raul died, he had been heard in his twilight hours to carry on snatches of conversations with Bobbit. Well, he can at least be assured of pleasant company where he is now. Though it wouldn't hurt, from where I stand, for him to be given a share of Bobbit's company as well in the Wall of Remembrance. Heaven knows plain decency in public office has taken on the proportions of exceptional heroism in this country.

That is what makes Raul Roco straddle this world like a colossus, as Cassius said of Caesar, despite his seeming failures. He was—a good man.

He was a decent politician in an occupation grown more indecent over the years, he was a principled lawyer in a country grown more lawless over the years, he was an honorable man in a world where honor sold more cheaply than DVDs in Quiapo. His virtues are not hard to see, his light is made brighter all the more by the darkness that suffuses this land, particularly that part found in the Palace by the Pasig River.

I will always remember him in three contexts that reveal his character more than anything else.

The first one was during the height of the Erap impeachment trial. A young lawyer, Jasmin Banal, who had worked in a law firm that created dummy corporations for Erap, took the stand. Miriam Defensor-Santiago tried to demolish her credibility by asking her why she transferred from that firm to another one that offered lower pay.

Santiago said: "So you made the unusual deviation from the usual career path, since you and I and all UP law graduates virtually pursue the same career path after graduation. Isn't that so? We try and get the highest salary we can get… But in your case, you transferred from a law office with a higher salary to a law office with a lower salary. Is that correct?" Banal replied, "Yes." Santiago commented, "Remarkable."

When it was Raul's turn, he had this dialogue with Banal: Raul: "We in San Beda Law, we were taught that law is a noble profession, it is not a business. Am I right to assume that you in UP Law were taught the same thing?" Banal: "Yes, Your Honor." Raul: "What is written on the UP Law School, engraved in stone?" Banal: "The business of a law school is not to teach law but to teach law in the grand manner." Raul: "We are brothers and sisters in the profession, we should always be motivated by a sense of idealism. Is this correct?" Banal: "Yes, Your Honor." Raul: "So when you transfer from a higher-paying job to a lower-paying job, that is not necessarily an erroneous career decision? In fact, it could be motivated by a sense of idealism?" Banal: "Yes, Your Honor."

Raul: "Yes. I thought that should be elicited because I was surprised to learn that the usual career path of lawyers is going from lower-paying jobs to higher-paying jobs."

Infuriated, Santiago vented her ire on the gallery and made them grasp the meaning of law by having three of them—Dante Jimenez, Bettina Aboitiz and Rosanna Tuason-Fores—forcibly removed from the premises. The reason? "They were eyeing me provocatively."

The second incident was during a visit to Naga during the Peñafrancia Fiesta some years ago. Raul was a devout believer in "Ina," which is how Bicolanos call Our Lady of Peñafrancia. He credited her with many miracles in his life, not least how his wife, Sonia, survived being trapped in the rubble of the Nevada Hotel in the Baguio earthquake of 1990.

It was September 2003, and the surveys were still talking about him as the candidate to beat in the elections. When we saw each other in Naga, the first thing he asked me was whether I had already paid my visit to "Ina." His voice was earnest. I said, yes, I had just dropped by the Cathedral. I did not add that, not being tremendously religious, I did it more out of a devout wish to soak in nostalgia than out of a compelling need to fall to my knees in devout prayer. When we were kids, we used to occupy the part of the church near the altar as the choir, fighting off the vapors of sleep in early morning. We were the honors class, and for some reason—completely fallaciously in my case—the school authorities seemed to have believed that sound voices lurked in sound minds.

Raul seemed in such great anxiety about the state of my soul. He genuinely looked relieved at my answer and said no one may be too busy to attend to the affairs of heaven. He never advertised his religious convictions, he kept them to himself. It was between him and his God. He never claimed to have been anointed by God and ordered to cheat his way to the presidency. He probably figured that if he told a lie, it wasn't just that God would know, it was that he would.

And finally Raul had no end of stories to tell about his father. His father was a farmer who showed him that he had much to learn from the land. One day, when he was a small boy, he and his father were walking along the fields when his father stopped and pointed out the grain to him. "Look at the rice stalks," his father said. "When they are empty, they hold their heads high. When they are full, they bow their heads. Follow the example of the grain." To the end of his life, Raul never forgot that lesson.

He lived to be a good man.

Impeachment talk

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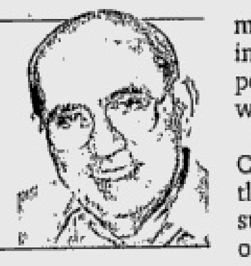

IMPEACHMENT is of British origin. Ironically, however, in the British system, neither the king nor the prime minister is subject to impeachment. The only way for the British to be rid of an unwanted monarch is by revolution or assassination. As for the prime minister, he or she is essentially a legislative creature who may at any time be replaced by parliament through a no-confidence vote. This means, the prime minister can be theoretically ousted for reasons as trivial as the quality of his sartorial preferences.

When the American founding fathers were formulating the Federal Constitution, they had no intention of setting up a monarch who could rule for life. But they did want to give him security of tenure. At the same time, however, the founders were aware that, human nature being what it is, it might become necessary to rid the presidential office of one who has been found unworthy of it. They were also aware that any president would have innumerable enemies who would only be too glad to oust him! What the founders did, therefore, was to make the president immune from suit, but at the same time removable in extreme cases, when the only way of protecting the public is by removing him. The method set up for this purpose was the impeachment process. This is what has been transplanted into the Philippine Constitution. The President is immune from suit while in office but removable by conviction on impeachment.

The object of the impeachment process is not to punish but only to remove a person from office. As Justice Storey put it in his commentary on the Constitution: impeachment is "a proceeding, purely of a political nature, [it] is not so much designed to punish an offender as to secure the state against gross political misdemeanors. It touches neither his person nor his property, but simply divests him of his political capacity." Thus, prosecution after impeachment does not constitute prohibited double jeopardy. It is therefore understandable why a sitting President will fight tooth and nail to stay in office.

Up until the year 2000, when President Joseph Estrada was impeached, Philippine experience showed impeachment to be an ineffective means for removing an unwanted President. In the three earlier instances where there was a move to impeach a Philippine president—first in 1949 against President Quirino and again in 1963 against President Macapagal and in 1986 against President Marcos—the move never went beyond the initiation stage because of failure to muster the required number of votes in the House. But the 1987 Constitution reaffirmed the nation's faith in the impeachment process. At the time of its drafting, it had already been seen that the threat of impeachment was enough of a motivation for US President Richard Nixon to relinquish his office voluntarily.

By now the Filipino public has become familiar with the fact that impeachment, as structured in our Constitution, has two phases: the House of Representatives phase and the Senate phase. Neither process is characterized by pure rationality.

The power of the House to impeach, that is, its power to send accusations to trial by the Senate, is encumbered by procedural and substantive limitations. We are witnessing this now as congressmen quarrel over form and substance.

Substantively, the grounds can only be "treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, and betrayal of public trust." Of these, "betrayal of public trust" is the most amorphous and can cover a multitude of sins. I would say that these substantive encumbrances are not insurmountable, not necessarily because I see supporting evidence but especially because we know that politicians as judges are not generally imbued with the judicial quality of cold neutrality.

As to correctives to House errors, the Supreme Court can correct procedural errors, as it did in the Davide case, but it must leave substantive issues for review by the Senate as the "sole judge" of impeachment cases.

No one will claim that the Senate as impeachment judge considers cold impartiality as a paramount value. Consider the herd behavior of the US senators in the Clinton case. Not a single Democrat voted "Guilty." Remember, too, how the Estrada impeachment never reached conclusion. Senators voted with their feet.

It is important to remember that, in an impeachment, what is involved is not just a legal decision but also a policy decision. It is for this reason that the responsibility for impeachment has been given not to a court of justice but to a political (read "policy-making") body. Thus, when the senators deliberate on what verdict to support, the question they answer is not only whether there is evidence to support a "Guilty" verdict, but also whether, under the circumstances, the preferred policy should be to remove the offending official who is on trial.

In other words, a verdict of "Not Guilty" does not necessarily mean "innocent." It can also mean guilty, but not guilty enough to support removal as the preferred policy option under the circumstances of the nation. When you look at it from this perspective, the debate about the quality of evidentiary proof—whether proof beyond reasonable doubt, or preponderance of evidence, or substantial evidence, or even clear and convincing evidence—is not of paramount importance. What is decisive is the gut feel of the individual senators.

It is again gut feel season. But first the impeachment charges against the President must test the gut feel of the members of the House before they can test the gut feel of senators.

Am I asking for the moon?

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

I WANT not just the political system changed. I want the politicians changed as well.

I want a system free from the greed of our country's ruling elite. I cannot entrust my future to politicians who are so full of themselves with their moronic tantrums.

Could I entrust my future to a Jinggoy Estrada or a Loi Ejercito? Or to a Lito Lapid? Or to a Tootsie Guingona, freshly harvested from his family orchard of *balimbings* yet already behaving like a *trapo*? It is perhaps true: Con-Ass is, pardon the language, only for pompous asses.

Would I want my future mapped out by an Imee Marcos? God forbid, the Filipinos forgetting the accountability of the Marcoses. The war for accountability can never be waged through sheer hypocrisy.

I want a system where all the Imelda Marcoses, all the Erap Estradas, all the cheaters and stealers found guilty of making their own "Hello Garci" calls (and there are many) go to jail. For it is important for us to live under a society that recognizes what is right and what is wrong. That is a fundamental virtue that should not be selective and applicable only to a few scapegoats and political pet peeves. Enough with the tomfoolery!

I want a system of genuine nationalists, not of blabbering nationalists whose unprincipled and changing alliances go by the shifting sands of Philippine politics, never mind if they make strange bedfellows. Having dud nationalists is the last thing we need.

I want a system insulated for all times from these harbingers of idiocy—our present crop of leaders, national, local and whatever. I do not want to see their wives, husbands, children, brothers, sisters, cousins and in-laws play "merry go-round" with the sacred elective positions in our government, as though we, voters, were the most gullible fools of this earth. Dynasts you all are, no matter how many times you deny it to death.

I want a system where the poor do not vote according to the wishes of the highest bidder. For here we have a system of politicians whose words grandiloquently proclaim noble political visions and goals but whose ways and interests are very much like those of the dark underworld. Exploitation of the poor is one of the gravest sins of our politicians, who are now destined for Hades.

> I want a system free from the greed of our country's ruling elite. I cannot entrust my future to politicians who are so full of themselves

I want a system free forever from local mayors and governors who behave like monarchs, potentates and egomaniacs as they treat local government units as their personal rubber stamps. I want local leaders who sit for only one term and, together with all their relatives, prohibited forever from running for any office anywhere, anytime. Why, they are no gods! I am certain our lives will be better without them.

I want a political system where major decisions come down not from an ivory tower in Manila but take into account the angst and yearnings of faceless ordinary Filipinos even in the remotest countryside. I do not want to submit papers to a bureaucrat who is based in Manila and who does not understand my wholeness and my being.

I want a system that puts food on the family tables of our languishing poor who number in the millions, not a system that is mired in the silly gridlocks of senseless political grandstanding and debate.

I want a system where the rich resources of Mindanao go to Mindanao's marginalized people, not to the coffers of an uncaring Manila that thinks all talk of Mindanao secession is just an empty threat. I dream of a Mindanao that is not a victim of a juvenile and trigger-happy mind disposed to fire guns and explode bombs as a strategy for silencing opposition.

I want a system where the Philippines stands proud as a sovereign among sovereigns, not a puppet republic in an archaic world dichotomy prescribed by a self-appointed global policeman. I want a system with the chutzpah to take up the cudgels for the Aung San Suu Kyis of this world.

Am I making impossible demands? I think not. A Charter change for federalism would be good. Pepe Abueva is correct: Mindanao is the cradle of the federalist movement. Come to think of it, power is a commodity that is most effective only when it is near. In this sense, Charter change that includes federalism will have my awe and my reverence.

This is precisely why I cannot entrust Charter change and my future to congressmen and senators and all the purveyors of political patronage, who have only discredited themselves and have long been on the road to self-destruction; and it is definitely not the road less traveled.

What bliss it would be to have them all impeached!

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

A minority of many

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

RAUL S. Roco was a man who refused to be apologetic about his intelligence. He loved learning, and loved to be a learned man. He did not possess a formidable intellect only to disguise it with false modesty or a feigned humility. In fact, he loved history, poetry, politics, the law and literature so much that he assumed his love for them was shared by others. Not everyone did; and those who didn't, proclaimed his affections as manifestations of a monumental ego.

There was, indeed, something monumental about the man; no dainty dilettante or shrinking, Hamlet-like intellectual was he. He was possessed of a strong self-assurance that manifested itself in an unfortunate tendency to refer to himself in the third person: he would say, "Roco believes," instead of "I think." But then the same habit was apparent in leaders like Charles de Gaulle of France. Like De Gaulle, Roco was, by nature, a lone wolf; he inspired devotion—of the kind one normally identifies with mystics. He was above the throng, outside the herd: he would not pander if that was the price of leadership. He would lead only on his own terms, because, to his mind, those terms were both demanding and reasonable. Leadership required competence; it needed preparation; it demanded integrity.

For those who wanted leadership with intellectual depth, who desired to be led not on the basis of the least common denominator but on the chief's daring to raise the bar of public service, Roco was ideal. He was ideal because he was idealistic; he never asked of his followers less than he asked of himself—and he asked a lot of himself throughout his life. He came from the province, but was not provincial; he loved his provincial origins, but refused to be parochial; he was a politician, but there was always a kind of politics to which he could neither submit nor condone.

What was that kind of politics? The kind that was vague; the sort that promised everything, and so, could achieve little and more often than not, nothing. He was not about "win-win," he was about winning, so that the evils that deserved to lose—corruption, incompetence, mediocrity and mental and moral mendacity—would be defeated.

The problem with the lone wolf is that other wolves do not trust him, and the sheep fear him because, while being one of a kind, different from other wolves, he remains identified with the rest of the wolves.

Raul Roco's greatest failure as a politician was that he was always unable—perhaps unwilling—to join the pack, much less lead it. As a leader, he would lead, alone, yet the other wolves howled he still was a wolf, though in sheep's clothing. What could he do? Snarl that the voters are not sheep, but conditioned to being sheep; and they viewed him with a sheep's fear of the wolf. And so the people chose to be like sheep, and put their faith in the other wolves.

There have been other lone wolves in our political past. There was Juan Sumulong before the war, Claro M. Recto and Raul S. Manglapus before martial law, even Jovito Salonga. They all rose far, but only so far—and not far enough. Each had the capacity to inspire devotion and loyalty; each tried to buck the trend; all failed to achieve the highest office within the gift of their people. Each one was conscientious, admired for a fine and brave conscience, supported by a dedicated and idealistic minority. Democracy, however, is not about the nobility of the minority but the success of the majority.

The "advantage" of a politician unencumbered by scruples, intellect, or a stubborn insistence on integrity (or self-worth) is his ability to generate a kind of joy that is infectious. It is the kind of joy felt by the audience in a basketball game where the finer points of the game are set aside in order to gain points and achieve victory. We are, after all, a country whose basketball heroes include Robert Jaworski, who is not, by any means, the exemplar of gentlemanly conduct on the court. Roco was the kind of political player we could all admire, but who remained so unique, so different—in the end, so strange—that he could not achieve the transformation from being a personality attractive to a minority into some kind of leader desirable to the majority.

Was his, then, a life turned into political tragedy? A well-intentioned footnote to history? To his followers and, perhaps even to himself, his political career was tragic: he was twice rejected in his bid for the presidency, the last time, under circumstances made worse by the illness that claimed his life. However, it was not cancer that defeated Roco's bid for the presidency in 2004, it was fear, the same fear that defeated him in 1998. It was the fear of the people, of an electorate who behaved more like terrorized sheep, so different from the kind of voters Roco saw if only they were were given the chance to prove themselves.

He was that chance; but not enough took a chance on him.

Today with his passing, everybody is praising him—even the wolves, and most poignantly of all, the sheep. His greatest achievement doesn't lie in the praises being heaped on him with his passing, but in the hearts of the few who followed him, even to the point of defeat. For unlike the rest of us, they can say: a vote for him is a vote we will never have cause to regret. No finer words can a follower say of a leader; no nobler feeling can a candidate hope to find in the hearts of his countrymen.

Roco was true to himself; and he caused others to be true to themselves. In so doing, he forged a bond that only true leaders can build. And thus, he created and led a minority of many—and many there will be to continue his fight.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

Moving forward

COMMENTARY

Edilberto C. de Jesus

"THE TRUTH that I discovered from my beginnings as a neophyte politician in 1992, rising to become a veteran politician through the years, is this: over the years, our political system has degenerated to such an extent that it is very difficult to live within the system with hands totally untainted. That is the truth."

This declaration, made during her address to the nation in the wake of the controversy over the "Hello Garci" tapes, was arguably the truest statement in the speech. And the saddest, because most people have apparently accepted as truth that the contest for political office requires getting one's hands dirty. Hence, their reluctance to cast the first stone at the President, especially when many of the rabble-rousers calling for the stoning offered even more worthy targets.

But the statement also undermines the claim that talking to a Comelec official was simply a "lapse in judgment." A veteran politician would accept such acts as part of the price exacted by our political process. The lapse was in overlooking the precautions to avoid getting caught. Unfortunately, the biblical injunction against casting the first stone, which she alluded to in her speech, is not an edifying line of defense for an incumbent President.

However, whatever the reservations about the President, there is clearly a strong public consensus against any recourse to unconstitutional measures. Those who have called for her resignation appeal to her better nature to spare the country the pain of a protracted period of political uncertainty and the consequent risk of stunting its growth.

She has declined, as is her right, to take this course. The issue is clear: Can she continue to discharge effectively her responsibility to run the government and to drive needed reform measures? To the extent that she can do this to the satisfaction of the public, she maintains a measure of control over her political destiny.

The appeal, released by officials of the Department of Education to the media on July 15, to keep the department insulated from the current political controversies provides the President with a platform for implementing urgently needed reforms in the education sector, which she has said would be a priority during her second term.

The DepEd witnessed last September a seamless transition between one administration and the next, ensuring that the momentum for reform continued without disruption. If the President is interested in maintaining this momentum, she might surprise the public by appointing Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz as the next education secretary. Luz has served the DepEd for almost three years and has been a key figure in developing the DepEd Roadmap, originating some of its most innovative components, such as the hugely successful Brigada Escuela Program.

Second, the President can present as a priority measure a bill liberating the teachers from the mandatory obligation to staff the electoral process. This inequitable and onerous burden exposes the teachers to political harassment and the DepEd to political pressures on the appointment, deployment and promotion of staff. It has also been on the list of urgent priority reforms in education for well over a decade. Surely, if the President can mobilize her allies in the legislature to defeat any impeachment move, she should be able to persuade them to pass a measure that its own Educational Commission had recommended in 1992.

Third, the President can respond to the call from various sectors to reform the electoral system, beginning with the overhaul of the Commission on Elections. She created the problems with her appointments, and she must take the responsibility of addressing those problems. Christian Monsod and Haydee Yorac proved that it was possible to clean up the Comelec and keep it clean. Is it within the President's power to convince her appointees to step down so that the process of renewal can be accelerated? Or probably not. They may find no reason to resign, since she herself would not.

Reforming the Comelec, including the automation of the electoral process, is clearly the most challenging task. But it should not be as difficult as persuading the Senate to cooperate in its own extermination by supporting the move to a parliamentary system. More important, it goes deeper toward the roots of the "degeneration" of the political system that she bemoaned in her statement. Our problem is less the form of government than the electoral system and the practices that it has spawned and that we have tolerated.

The world recognizes our claim to be a democracy, because we enjoy the right to vote for our leaders in regularly scheduled elections. But guns, goons and, increasingly, gold (which can buy guns and goons, as well as government officials, both civil and military) have figured regularly in all of our elections. A few years back, some newly elected legislators confessed to shock and embarrassment when they found out that the post-election conversation in the congressional lounge focused on the relative retail price for votes in their respective constituencies.

No one can hope to win an election now without building up a war chest to fund a campaign. It can take only one election to turn the youngest and most idealistic politician into an instant *trapo*, beholden to those who made his victory possible. Once elected, the *trapos* can use the perks of office and the position of rule-maker to free themselves from their earlier patrons and to lay the foundation for building political dynasties.

Most of the contending parties in the current political controversy ought to agree on reforming the Comelec and the completion of the automation project as priority steps. Even the snap elections demanded by some groups make sense only on the assumption of a Comelec that can be trusted to supervise an efficient electoral process.

Whether we have a presidential or a parliamentary system, as long as the electoral process and the determinants of electoral success remain the same, we will be entrusting power to the tainted hands of the same breed of *trapos*. The parliamentary system may be even worse, since, normally, only those who have gone through the electoral muck and won can qualify for executive positions.

The appointment of a credible leader for the DepEd, the release of the teachers from their bondage as election servants, the automation of the electoral process and the overhaul of the Comelec are necessary—although not sufficient—steps to reform the political system. Their attainment would send a clear signal of the President's commitment to a genuine reform agenda and her capacity to keep the country moving forward.

Edilberto C. de Jesus is a former education secretary.

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A democracy without values is totalitarianism in disguise

THESE days, our civil authorities and lawmakers are peddling the idea that a change in our system of government will solve our political and economic crises. They are like witch doctors prescribing quack medicine for a serious ailment.

One system of government can be as good as another. The good of the people and the development of society are advanced when civil authorities and citizens alike lead upright lives and uphold the right values.

This is what the "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church" says: "An authentic democracy is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. If there is no consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost and its stability is compromised (No. 407)."

A value that will help us achieve the common good—though it is very difficult to obtain and to live by in our present society—is the truth. We too easily compromise the truth. The late Pope John Paul II wrote, "It must be observed that if there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political action, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. As history demonstrates, a democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism. ('Centessimus Annus,' 46)." So until we all love the truth and live according to the truth, we will always remain slaves and victims of those who manipulate the truth.

What I think we all need is a change of mind and heart. A change in the system of government will not solve anything if we don't change ourselves.

—FR. CECILIO L. MAGSINO,
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Davao is for Davao, not for GMA

I WOULD like to share some thoughts with INQUIRER readers in reaction to the column "The secession card" of Manuel L. Quezon III. (PDI, 7/18/05) While some regions may not be friendly toward President Macapagal-Arroyo, they may not be actively hostile. (Rodrigo Duterte of Davao City says Davao is for the President; I think Davao is for Davao, period.)

Quezon is right on the mark, for many reasons: and one is geographical—we live in Davao and we have everything we need right here. Now, if we could only have more of what Manila has!

I was dismayed when Duterte brought the Federal Republic of Mindanao flag and national anthem out. But if it keeps Manila on its toes and drives home the message that the Constitution should be followed even if the President must resign, then it was a message well-delivered.

We are not for GMA, but we definitely want prosperity to finally come and stay in our part of the country. Our leaders know that this is what we want. As long as the people in Metro Manila don't make themselves a hindrance in our march to progress, we are, on the whole, willing to work within the framework.

Do I believe in GMA? Like most of my friends, I picked her as the lesser evil. Having made this choice, like my friends, we feel that Manila must respect our votes—we are generally satisfied with how she has been managing our country's business.

I do believe that a democracy can accommodate people like Satur Ocampo, Panfilo Lacson, Imee Marcos, Loren Legarda and JV Ejercito. However, I believe we do have morals, something they all abandoned when they told the public that they were forming a tactical alliance. Isn't that sick?

Thanks. I became a recent follower of Quezon's columns after he wrote about discernment. I hope he keeps writing. We need more columnists who have a moral code, who don't change according to need.

—MYLENE M. SUACO,
mmsuaco@bayandsl.com

Olongapo City is cerebral-malaria free

IN CONNECTION with the news item "Cerebral malaria strikes Olongapo," (PDI, 7/21/05) may we clarify:

1. There has not been and there still is no known case of cerebral malaria in Olongapo's history.

2. "Plasmodium falciparum" was identified in around 276 cases in Olongapo's upland areas, but infection of this parasite does not necessarily mean affliction with cerebral malaria. Cerebral malaria is a complication of untreated/unchecked malaria—this happens when the parasite has traveled to the patient's brain, something that has not happened to any of the cases in Olongapo because of early detection and treatment.

3. Of the 276 detected cases (April-June 2005), most were "relapsed cases" (due to decreased resistance)—meaning, same individuals listed as afflicted in previous months were listed again in the following months or so because of the recurrence of symptoms; others were imported cases, meaning, the patients were infected while visiting the nearby provinces of Bataan and Zambales; and others were indigenous cases, meaning, the infected persons were Aetas already afflicted with the parasite even before their relocation from Zambales' mountains to Olongapo's highlands, when Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991. (Olongapo is a chartered city. It is independent of the province of Zambales.)

4. Preventive and therapeutic measures taken by the city government, particularly by the administration of Mayor James "Bong" Gordon Jr., have successfully contained and treated the malaria infections. There has not been a single death in the city as a result of any malaria strain infection.

We are thankful the report was clear that the infections were detected in the uplands and not in the city proper. We hope that the public are able to grasp the difference, otherwise the image, economy and eventually the people of Olongapo will suffer if visitors, local and foreign alike, start skipping Olongapo City as a destination, for fear of the deadly cerebral malaria that is not even there.

—VIC V. VIZCOCHO JR.,
head, Public Affairs Office,
Olongapo City

Intramuros under siege

I AM a *balikbayan* staying at present in the Philippines to visit my sick mother. When I, together with an American friend, visited the Bureau of Immigration office to inquire about changing my immigration status from temporary visitor to dual citizen, I got this malicious welcome from a fellow Filipino.

While we were looking for a space to park our car, a man who introduced himself as a parking attendant approached and directed us to an open space near the Bureau of Immigration building. We were very grateful for the accommodation, only to find out later that our vehicle had been towed and impounded. We were able to recover our vehicle after paying the required towing fee.

What saddened me was that—some bystanders told us this—the person who directed us where to park our car was the same one who informed the towing crew of our "supposedly" illegally parked vehicle. We also learned that this parking attendant received some sort of reward for his "service" to the towing outfit.

I have tried to erase the incident from my mind but the memory of the embarrassing experience persists.

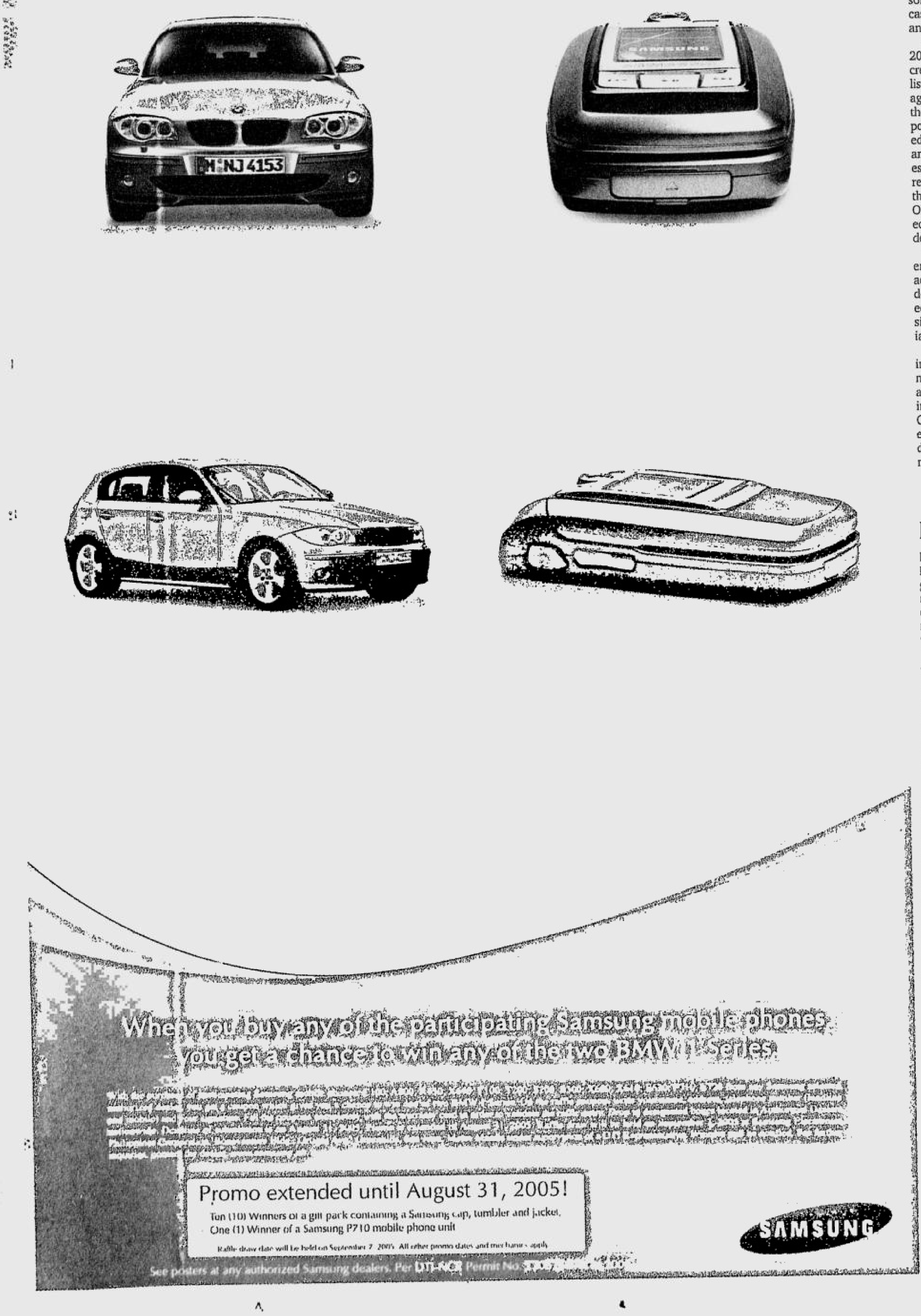
Aside from the induced "infraction," my American guest noticed the presence of parking boys in grimy shirts; and "solvent" boys and street children openly playing *cara y cruz* in front of the Bureau of Immigration building. There were also the persistent "barkers" harassing foreigners who were transacting business with the Bureau of Immigration. The "barkers" would lead foreigners to engage in legal services, which were offered in a spot across the street, which they called "under the tree."

I wonder how this embarrassing form of legal services can flourish in that place without the Bureau of Immigration, the Intramuros Administration and the Manila City Hall knowing it.

Even worse, the whole stretch of Magallanes Drive has been transformed into a bus and taxi terminal, complete with food stalls and "hobos" residing in nearby lawns and inside the old wall. The place stinks of human waste, urine and food trash.

I suppose these unsightly things should be addressed if we must sell the beauty of the ancient Intramuros Wall, not only to foreigners but to the locals as well.

—MACRINA K. ANG,
Tomas Claudio Street, Zamboanga City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Cops hunt gang tagged in cannibalism

HINDI AKO NGLUTO NYAN!

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Fear grips residents of remote villages in the boundary of Jose Abad Santos town in Davao del Sur and Glan town in Sarangani province after the leader of a cult allegedly involved in cannibalism managed to elude arrest.

Police have not yet established the name of the cultist group that became known and feared for eating the liver of their victims and drinking their blood.

Chief Insp. Reynaldo Mascardo, police chief of Jose Abad Santos, told reporters that his men were able to arrest three members of the group.

The suspects—brothers Angelito and Sabino Latang, and a certain Lito Vicente—are now detained at the Digos City jail awaiting trial for murder and illegal possession of firearms charges.

They were identified by a certain Kresing Limbudan, a member of the Manobo tribe in Barangay Nuwing, as the ones who stabbed and killed her husband on June 27.

Abandoned farms

Mascardo said he created a team to hunt down the suspects after several residents in Barangay Nuwing and Kitumbod in Jose Abad Santos abandoned their farms for fear of the cult.

Mascardo claimed that the residents found that the group was not only involved in landgrabbing but also in cattle rustling.

"To instill fear among residents, the cannibals kill their victims in full public view. They show to the public their eating of the liver and drinking of the blood," Mascardo said.

Life after jail

The police official identified the leader of the group as a certain Dodong Latang, who escaped from jail in Malita town, Davao del Sur.

Mascardo said Latang went to Nuwing and formed a cult.

Angelito and Sabino Latang were arrested while harvesting coconuts in a plantation owned by one of their victims.

Police recovered from them unlicensed firearms, amulets and a sharp *bolo* allegedly used in killing their victims.

Other victims of the group were identified as Benjamin Untoy, Cording Amadora and Celso Labiton. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Food chains seen growing market for Benguet veggies

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The province's highland vegetables may not be of export quality for now but they can give foreign exporters a run for their money in big markets in Metro Manila, an organic farming advocate here said.

Cesar Abalos, a member of the Organic Producers and Traders Association of Benguet, said the key to make local vegetables competitive was the willingness of farmers to adopt foreign technology applicable to local agriculture and to accept a steady pricing system independent of the supply and demand cycle.

Abalos, 43, said the market offered by big fastfood chains in Metro Manila looked very promising since they themselves could attest to the quality of locally produced vegetables.

"They are even willing to enter into a marketing deal with local farmers, provided they will be assured of a steady supply of vegetables," he told the INQUIRER.

He noted the big demand for potatoes, bell pepper, lettuce, carrots and broccoli.

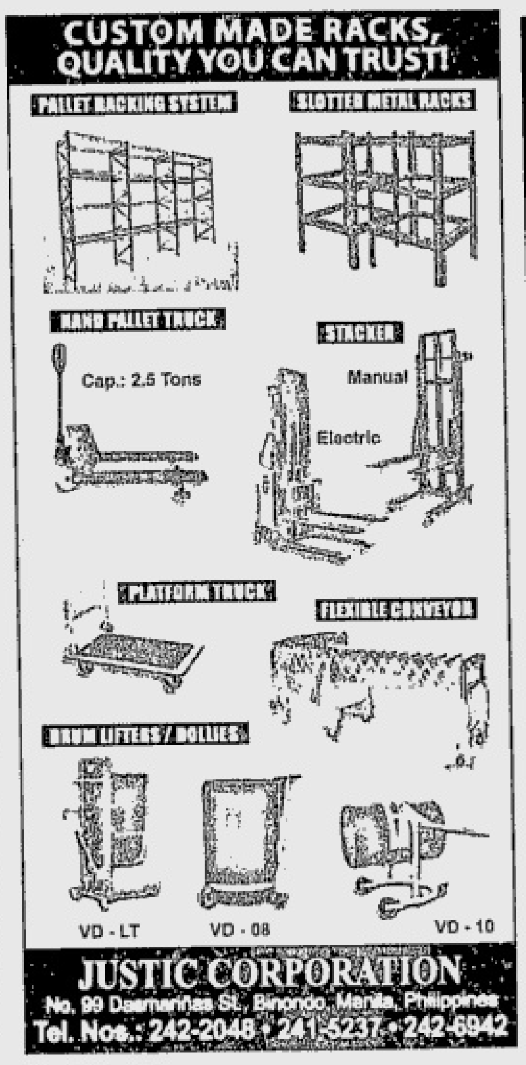
"These [food] outlets need at least 2,000 kilograms a day because of the number of branches they have nationwide," he said.

Abalos said he was informed of the results of a study by a fastfood chain that compared the same kind of vegetables produced in Bukidnon and in Benguet under the same altitude and weather condition.

He said Benguet's vegetables tasted better. "This has earned a reputation for our vegetables that could lead to a wide market. [Our] farmers should not ignore [this]."

But Abalos said that to meet the demand, the farmers must be willing to use new techniques, like organic farming and use of greenhouses to boost production.

He said organic farming produced disease-free vegetables and reduced farming costs. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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DAY 1: September 3 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	*The New Vat Law and its Implementing Regulations (2cu)*	Atty. Serafin Salvador, Jr.
10:15 - 12:15pm	*Resolution of Disputes in the Workplace (2cu)*	Dean Froilan Bacungan
1:00 - 3:00pm	*Perspectives on Foreign Investments and Project Finance Activities in the Philippines (2cu)*	Atty. Rocky Reyes
3:15 - 6:15pm	*Updates in Legal Ethics (3cu)*	Justice Hector Hofileña

DAY 2: October 8 - Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Makati City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	*Oral Advocacy and Effective Cross-Examination (2cu)*	Atty. Rogelio Vinluan
10:15 - 12:15pm	*Significant Changes and Amendments in Procedural Rules (2cu)*	Justice Ruben Reyes
1:00 - 3:00pm	*Trial Technique (2cu)*	Atty. Sigfrid Fortun
3:15 - 6:15pm	*Updates in Commercial Law (3cu)*	Judge Sixto Marella, Jr.

DAY 3: November 5 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	*Dual Citizenship and its Ramifications (2cu)*	Justice Isagani Cruz
10:15 - 12:15pm	*New Rules on Pre-Trial (2cu)*	Justice Noel Tijam
1:00 - 3:00pm	*Taxation Laws & the Corporation (2cu)*	Atty. Edmundo Guevara
3:15 - 6:15pm	*Conciliation & Arbitration of Construction Disputes (3cu)*	Atty. Victor Lazatin

DAY 4: November 26 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
8:00 - 10:00am	*Pleading Effectively Before Trial and Appellate Courts (2cu)*	Atty. Katrina Legarda
10:15 - 12:15pm	*Practice and Procedure before Labor Arbiters and the NLRC (2cu)*	Dean Froilan Bacungan
1:00 - 3:00pm	*Use of Forensic Pathology in Crimes against Persons (2cu)*	Dr. Racquel Fortun
3:15 - 6:15pm	*The Lawyer's Pitfalls (3cu)*	Justice Hilarion Aquino

Federal system backers to meet in Davao City

DAVAO CITY—Leaders of the Citizens Movement for a Federal Philippines (CMFP) in 15 regions throughout the country will gather here on Aug. 13-14 to come up with a common stand on the proposed Charter change.

The majority of the CMFP members are in favor of Charter change by way of constitutional convention.

President Macapagal-Arroyo proposed Charter amendments through a constituent assembly during her State of the Nation Address in July.

Archbishop Chito Gavino, Lihuk Pideral-CMFP provincial convenor, said at least 40 CMFP leaders from all over the country were expected to attend the meeting. "[The] CMFP will make a unanimous decision on whether to support Cha-cha through Con-con or through Con-ass."

He said the CMFP would discuss the issue regarding the composition of the consultative committee to be created by the President to draft the new Charter.

Some members said those who would be appointed to sit in the committee might draft changes for a purely parliament form of government.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, Mohammed Ali Hanapia Manuel, vice president of the Ulama League of the Philippines, said moves for federalism should be supported. *Judy Quiros and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Abu says AFP has no orders to hunt Garci

ABU

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu said political crisis is not his area of expertise so he could not discuss President Macapagal-Arroyo's problems over a wiretapped conversation with an election official that had gone public.

Abu on Saturday said he was not given instructions to pursue former Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, the official who was allegedly talking to Ms Arroyo in the taped conversations.

"To tell you frankly, I have not received any order to look for him," he told reporters here.

But Abu, who will retire on Aug. 15, was very empathic when he discussed his one great lesson in life to the Philippine Military Academy cadets.

"In life, everything you do has a purpose. That's it. That's [all I will tell the cadets]," Abu told the INQUIRER.

He said only observers know how well he fared in the military, so he is leaving his post with no eloquent or philosophical *"pabaon"* (words of wisdom) for either the cadets or the institution he is leaving to Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, the Philippine Army commander.

"I have no delusion about what I have done. If there is a legacy, it's up to [observers to say there is one]. I'll just do my thing," Abu said.

"Abu is a quiet operator because he gets things done [under the radar], but his watch is [tainted] by the 'Hello, Garci' scandal, which is agitating soldiers. He is leaving in the middle of a crisis and he knows there are too many things that need to be done," a top military official said here.

Lt. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, PMA superintendent, invited Abu on Saturday for a farewell tribute and parade but the AFP chief of staff spent most of his time indoors with Senga as strong rains hit the city.

Abu, Senga and Balaoing belong to the PMA Masigasig Class of 1972.

A PMA official said bad weather also forced Balaoing to cancel Abu's private dinner with PMA officers on Friday, and another dinner with PMA staff members and teachers on Saturday.

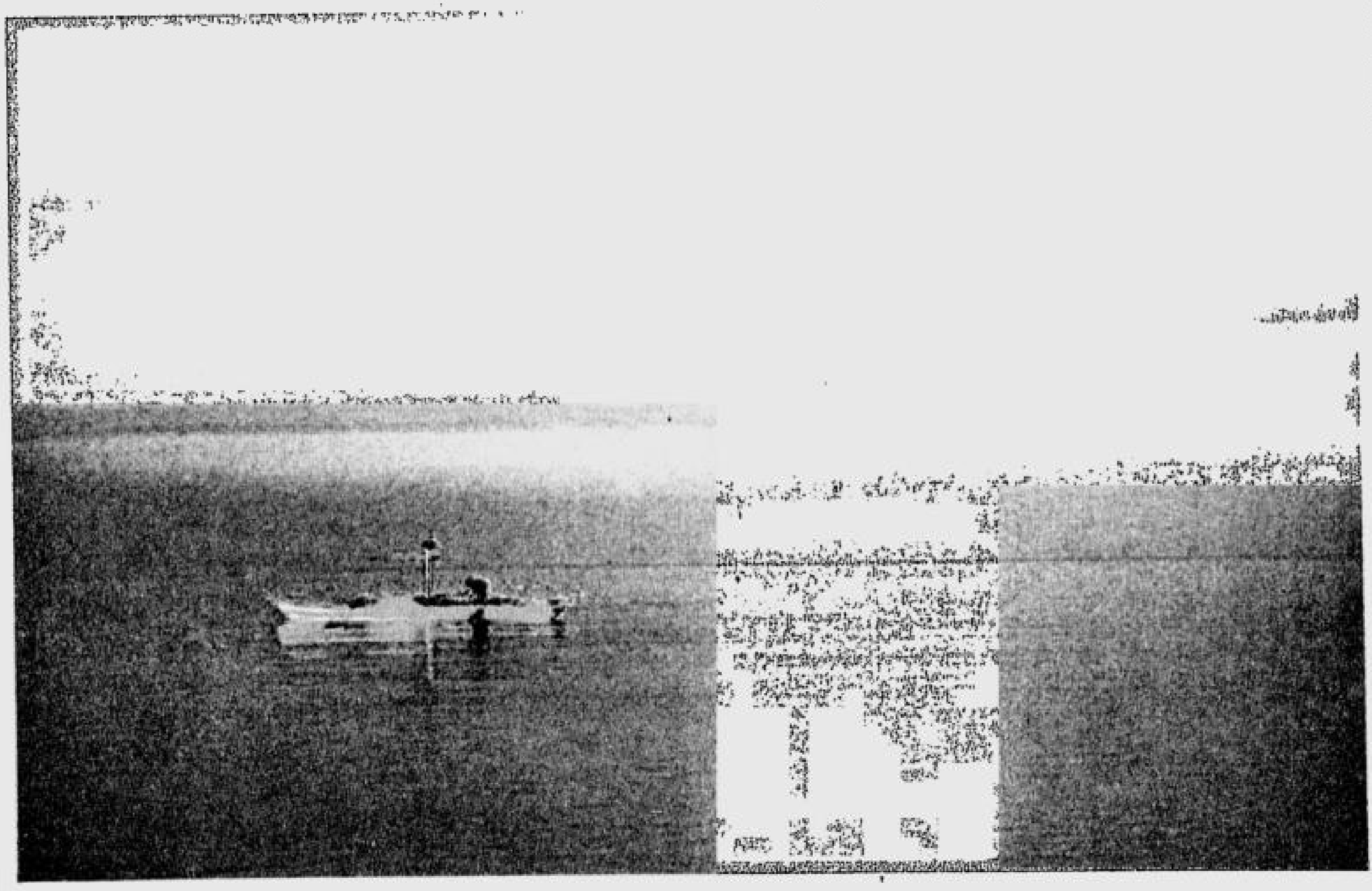
Abu would have received a 19-gun salute to honor him. He started his career as an Army lieutenant in Quezon and Sulu and became military attache to the Court of St. James in London.

He returned to command the Camp O'Donnell light armor brigade in Central Luzon before rising up to command the Philippine Army.

He was appointed chief of staff in October 2004.

Abu did not answer questions about the current political crisis. He was also elusive about a proposal to shift to a federal government led by parliament.

"We have many priorities [in the military] and since [federalism] has not yet been discussed in Congress, there is nothing [we can add now]," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



EARLY WORK
A lone fisherman starts his day at dawn in Sipalay, Negros Occidental.

Rights groups condemn arrest of archbishop's brod

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Human rights groups here have condemned the arrest of Romeo Capalla, younger brother of Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, whom authorities have accused of being part of a group of communist rebels who burned a construction equipment in May last year.

The Panay Alliance-Karapatan said Capalla's arrest is part of an "alarming" pattern of witch-hunt and harassment against non-government organizations and leaders of militant organizations.

The board of directors of the Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC), which Capalla manages since 2001, also condemned his arrest.

"We find (Capalla's arrest) baseless, a grave injustice against him and a great inconvenience to his function as manager of PFTC," said a resolution of the PFTC board of directors.

They demanded his immediate release and the dropping of the charge against him.

The PFTC is a private firm that buys organic muscovado sugar and bananas from people's organizations and exports these to fair trade organizations in Europe.

Archbishop Capalla, outgoing president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), declined to comment when reached by the INQUIRER through mobile phone.

He said he would issue a statement after he has conferred with his brother's lawyers.

Romeo Capalla is the younger brother of the prelate whose family hails from Leon town, Iloilo. The archbishop is the second while Romeo is the sixth of seven siblings.

Capalla, 56, was arrested at about 6:30 a.m. on Aug. 3 at a police checkpoint in Barangay San Antonio in Oton town, 11 km south of Iloilo City.

He was on board a Mitsubishi pick-up truck on his way home after he brought his children to school when he was stopped at a checkpoint manned by a team of the Army Intelligence Task Unit, the Iloilo provincial police office and the Police Regional Office 6 (PRO-6).

Senior Supt. Isagani Cuevas, PRO-6 deputy regional director for operations and chief of the regional intelligence division, said Capalla was arrested on charges of destructive arson based on an arrest warrant dated Feb. 25, 2005, and issued by Judge Teodolo Colada of the Regional Trial Court Branch 67 in Guimbal town, Iloilo. No bail was recommended.

Cuevas said Capalla was accused of being with New People's Army rebels who burned pieces of equipment worth P15 million at a field office of construction firm E.C. de Luna Construction Corp. in Barangay Patricion in Guimbal, 29 km south of Iloilo City, days before the May 11 elections last year.

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[1] Walzem, R L., C.J. Dillard, and J.B. German. Crit. Rev. Food & Sci & Nutr. 42:353. 2002. [2] Meister A. Cancer Res 1994:54(S) 1969-1975.

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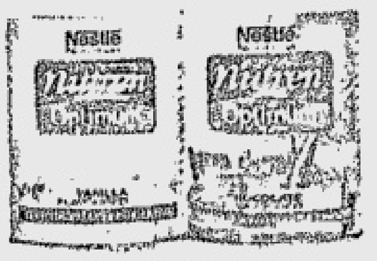
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2 Bugkalot villages gain windfall from dam taxes

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Two Bugkalot villages, which host a hydroelectric facility in Alfonso Castañeda town, would share with neighboring barangays the P30.7-million allocation from the P250-million real property tax paid by the dam's owners, officials said Friday.

Officials of Barangays Pelaway and Abuyo, which host the Casecnan Multi-Purpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP), have agreed to share with the villages of Cawayan and Lipuga the proceeds from the tax payments, said Potado Gabogen, Pelaway chair.

"We are doing this in the spirit of sharing, being brothers and sisters in the same tribe. We share whatever grace any one of us receives," Gabogen, a Bugkalot, said.

He said they were hoping that the money would help provide livelihood opportunities to Bugkalot natives in the CMIPP area.

On July 25, California Energy Casecnan Water and Energy Co. (CE Casecnan), CMIPP owner, paid the provincial government P250.7 million to settle its real property tax obligations since 2001.

The amount covers P246 million in real property tax and penalties, and P4.9 million in "administrative costs." CE Casecnan officials, however, said they were paying the obligation "under protest."

Mayor Alfredo Castillo of Alfonso Castañeda said the chairs of the four villages had signed an agreement to split among their barangays the P30.7-million share from the payment.

Under the agreement, 45 percent will be given to Pelaway, site of CMIPP's two impounding dams, machines and several buildings, while 20 percent will go to Abuyo, host of the 26-km diversion tunnel.

Lipuga and Cawayan will be receiving 17.5 percent each, Castillo said.

Though the barangays do not host any property taxed by the provincial government, they occupy watershed forests and two rivers —Casecnan and Taan—that feed the CMIPP.

On Wednesday, the provincial treasury released two checks worth P15.3 million to village officials or half of the intended share of the barangays.

Under the province's 2001 tax ordinance, the local government is allowed to spend only 50 percent of the total tax payment if the taxpayer paid "under protest."

The P30.7 million represents Pelaway and Abuyo's combined 25-percent share from the P123-million basic tax, which is computed at 1 percent of the total value of CMIPP's assessed property.

The other 1 percent goes to the special education fund (SEF), which would be divided between the provincial government and the host town. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Co-op seeks help to put a stop to Oriental Mindoro brownouts

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Oriental Mindoro Cooperative (Ormeco) has sought the mediation of the Energy Regulatory Commission to speed up resolution of its power supply dispute with Mirant Philippines.

According to a statement faxed to the INQUIRER, Ormeco said its officer in charge Romeo Cuasay wrote a letter dated Aug. 1 to ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr., saying that Oriental Mindoro continued to suffer brownouts.

The letter added that Ormeco had requested Mirant to eliminate alleged unfavorable and onerous provisions from their power supply contract such as the take-or-pay provisions, punitive buy-out provisions that unduly jeopardizes the coop financially, more transparent metering of power supplied to other customers, and unpaid penalties for non-delivery.

"Mirant has refused to address these issues despite our numerous letters. [It} has been insisting that the terms and prices of the power supply agreement signed with the electric coop in 2000 for a 7.5-MW diesel power plant be implemented without changes," Cuasay said.

Greggy Romualdez, Mirant spokesperson, however, said its contract with Ormeco was valid and approved by the ERC.

"In the interest of fair play, it must be respected by the parties concerned. We have been open to threshing out any legitimate issues raised as long as these do not violate the sanctity of our contract," Romualdez added. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SAN BEDA COLLEGE PAYS TRIBUTE TO SENATOR RAUL S. ROCO

SAN BEDA COLLEGE mourns the passing of its outstanding alumnus SENATOR RAUL S. ROCO. We invite the entire Bedan Community to pray for his eternal repose.

Raul S. Roco was born October 26, 1941 in Naga City, Camarines Sur to farmer Sulpicio Azuela Roco and public school teacher Rosario Orlanda Sagarbarria. He finished elementary and high school at the Ateneo de Naga. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, magna cum laude, at **San Beda College** in Manila. Roco received his Bachelor of Laws as Abbott Awardee for Over-All Excellence at **San Beda College**. He took his Master of Comparative Law as a University Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. As a senator, Roco authored the law that reformed the central banking system. The achievement earned him the title "Father of the Bangko Sentral." Roco helped fund the teachers' cooperatives as well as initiated the increment mandated by the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers for retiring public school teachers. Roco's vision for education is "Bawat graduate bayani at marangal" or "Each graduate is a hero and a person of dignity." As Secretary of Education, Roco implemented, for the first time in Philippine educational history, free public primary and high school education. He is married to Sonia Cubillo Malasarte, who was named most outstanding student of the Philippines in 1964. They have six children Rabble Pierre, Raul Jr., Sophia, Sareena, Rex and Synara and four grandchildren.

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New homes give typhoon victims brighter future

By Leticia Z. Boniol

BRIGHTLY colored houses rise on land where victims of typhoons in Quezon were to transfer, courtesy of private sector effort and volunteerism. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SIX MONTHS ago, Silvina Conchada, a 46-year-old mother of 11 children, didn't know how her family could go on living after floods devastated her house in Banglos, General Nakar, Quezon.

Her family survived the flood but lost everything they own. Timber swept by floodwaters wrecked their house and destroyed their farm and fishing gear.

Nowadays, Conchada's hopes are rekindled. She became a recipient of a Gawad Kalinga housing unit in the Smart Amazing Village in Barangay Anoling, General Nakar.

Homeless no more, Conchada plans to sell cooked meals and perhaps, put up her own *sari-sari* store in her new neighborhood.

"*Makakapagsimula po ulit kami* (We can start again)," she said.

With the help of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) allocated P5 million to fund a house-building effort in Quezon early this year.

On July 29, Smart turned over the result of its effort—50 houses to 50 families, the first batch of 100 houses to be donated to Banglos residents who were victims of typhoons that struck their community in December 2004.

The community is part of Kalinga Luzon, a massive rehabilitation effort for flood victims led by the Gawad Kalinga Foundation. It is the second Smart Amazing Village that the telecommunications giant helped build. The first one is located at the Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila.

Close to 600 Smart employees have volunteered to build the houses. In weekly batches of 60, the employees worked side by side the community in the construction.

Built on a 2.3-hectare piece of property in Anoling, each house has a floor area of 20 sqm.

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Team monitoring Mindanao truce to stay one more year

COTABATO CITY—The government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have agreed to extend the presence of the 64-man Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team in Mindanao to sustain the gains of the peace negotiations, a spokesperson of the rebel group said.

However, Eid Kabalu said the current composition of the peace monitoring group headed by Malaysian Maj. Gen. Zulkifeli bin Mohamad Zain will be replaced by another group after Oct. 9.

"Their stay for another year will sustain the peace on the ground. They will also oversee the implementation of past agreements such as the rehabilitation and economic development of war-torn areas of Mindanao," Kabalu said.

The peace monitors are part of an initiative by Malaysia to end the decades-old armed rebellion in Mindanao. The contingent arrived in Manila in October last year.

Brunei sent its team on Oct. 20, while Libya sent a contingent in December.

Before their arrival, clashes between soldiers and MILF rebels had been sporadic.

MILF chief peace negotiator Mohagher Iqbal expressed gratitude to Zulkifeli's group which, according to him, has not only been active and effective in preventing clashes.

Silvestre Afable Jr., government chief negotiator, said the International Monitoring Team played a vital role "not only in monitoring the ceasefire agreement but also in sustaining an atmosphere conducive for the ongoing peace talks." *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

School building collapses

BUTUAN CITY—At least eight students were injured when a dilapidated two-story building of a Catholic-run high school collapsed in Barangay Poblacion, Carmen, Agusan del Norte on Friday morning. Fr. Rico Ybañez, parish priest of Carmen, said the victims were inside the library on the second floor of the wooden structure when it gave away due to heavy load. The victims, mostly second year students, suffered bruises, contusions or broken legs.

Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Executive shot dead

BACOLOD CITY—A lone assailant shot dead on Friday a business executive while he was about to board his vehicle outside a restaurant here. Florante Andan, 54, manager of Top Harbor International at the reclamation area, suffered bullet wounds in the head, left arm and leg. Police said Andan went to the Bacolod Pavilion and Restaurant on Friday afternoon to talk with some friends. At about 8:55 p.m., as he was about to board his Toyota Land Cruiser, an unidentified man shot him with a .45 cal. pistol. PO3 Julius Lagon, Police Precinct 2 investigator, said the assailant covered his face with a bonnet and wore a black sweatshirt and pants.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

P1-M aid to fishers co-op

NASUGBU, Batangas—A financial assistance of P1 million from the Bayan Muna party-list group is expected to help uplift the lives of fishermen here. Municipal officials led by Mayor Antonio Barcelon and Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador signed a memorandum of agreement to pursue a buy-and-sell business project. Dubbed the "Proyektong Pangkabuhayan ng Habagat," the project would benefit members of the Haligi ng Batangueñong Anak Dagat Inc. (Habagat) and their families, the biggest fishermen's cooperative in the locality. Virador said the fund would also be used to facilitate the delivery of fish catch to the market.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

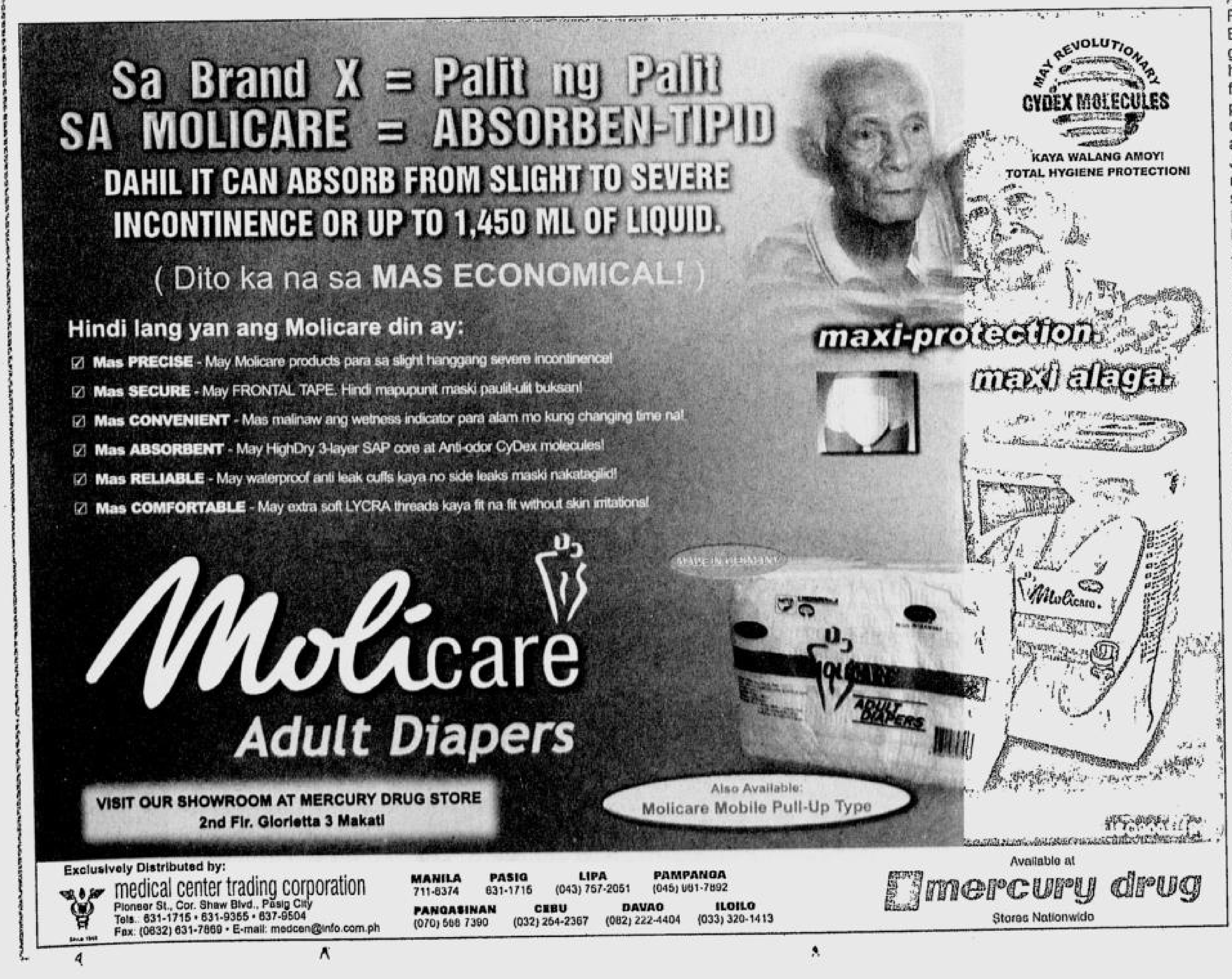
Gov's store held up

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Four unidentified armed men barged into an appliance store owned by Gov. Teresita Lazaro in San Pedro, Laguna on Tuesday afternoon, taking the day's earnings. A police report said the robbers struck at Royal Star Marketing Corp. in Barangay Poblacion at around 1 p.m. and immediately took P3,760 from the cash register. One of them shot the store's secretary, Rebecca Mabalot in the left shoulder after she refused to give her Nokia mobile phone.

Eyeglasses distributed

LUCENA CITY—Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. distributed eyeglasses for visually impaired residents during the observance of White Cane Safety Day last week. The mayor urged residents to be more compassionate in dealing with the blind and other visually impaired people. Congress passed into law Republic Act No. 6759, more popularly known as the "White Cane Act," designating Aug. 1 as White Cane Safety Day in order to promote recognition and acceptance of the "white cane" as a symbol of the blind's need for assistance and as a reminder of one's duty to care for and accord due respect to them.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau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Cruz says Palace bribing witnesses

From page A1

creeping to get them, all because some people want to remain in power," Cruz said.

Cruz's statement coincided with opposition claims that former Malacañang executive Datu Ahmad Bayam had earlier offered to corroborate the testimony last week of Michaelangelo Zuce linking Ms Arroyo to vote fraud and illegal gambling payoff—charges the President, battling for political survival, had adamantly denied.

On Saturday, Bayam, escorted by police officers, turned around, the opposition said, and dismissed Zuce's allegations, including a document Zuce had produced saying that Bayam had endorsed the appointment of Virgilio Garcillano, of "Hello Garci" fame, as election commissioner for having "delivered every electoral pleasure of the administration" since the 1992 elections when he was still a Comelec regional official.

Zuce's lawyer, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, said she was stunned by Bayam's claim. She said Bayam had sought her and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay out last week to discuss his plan to corroborate Zuce's testimony.

She said Bayam even asked for P1 million in "financial assistance" to bring his family from Cotabato to Manila to protect them from harassment.

CRUZ: Why is the administration so nervous and panicky that it will spare nothing to destroy jueteng witnesses?

Twisting entire thing

"That's why I was surprised when I saw him on TV Saturday night denying that he knows Garcillano and accusing us of offering him money. That's twisting the entire thing," said Chato in a phone interview. "I can't call him a liar because he could be under duress."

In the face of Bayam's claims, Zuce remained unfazed and was standing by his entire testimony, she said.

"The more that they try to destroy him, the more he becomes determined. He said that no matter what they do, they can't suppress the truth, and that he would fight this to the end," Chato said of Zuce.

Bayam also disclosed that he had a copy of a memorandum on the conduct of consultations with Comelec officials which he himself prepared and which he claimed was approved by the President, Chato said.

"He was saying that the President should be removed since she's the cause of all problems and that he would prepare an affidavit corroborating Zuce's testimony," she said. "Mayor Binay and I were happy. We thought here was another God-given witness."

Cruz has led a citizens' crusade against jueteng that prompted the convening of the Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers racket that rakes in P50 million daily and provides payoffs to politicians and police and military officials.

Malacañang claimed that the opposition was behind the antigovernment testimonies presented in the Senate hearings, but Cruz had sought to deflect these allegations, saying the major witnesses had come to him out of a desire to stamp out jueteng and seek his protection.

The only damaging testimony given without Cruz's involvement was the statement last week by the 30-year-old Zuce, a former Palace functionary, who said he was forced to testify against Ms Arroyo for fear of his life.

Zuce's testimony

Zuce said he witnessed a meeting in Ms Arroyo's home in the posh La Vista subdivision in Quezon City sometime in January 2004—four months before the presidential election—during which she allegedly appealed to regional directors and supervisors of the Commission on Elections for help in the balloting.

After she left the gathering, money from the wife of alleged jueteng lord Rodolfo Pineda was distributed, Zuce said.

Zuce said former Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. was also present at La Vista.

Yesterday, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, in a telephone call to the INQUIRER from California, said Dy would return to Manila from Los Angeles to "bare the truth."

Although Dy had been invited by the Senate to appear at the resumption of its hearing on Wednesday, the former governor said he would not show up during the inquiry but would testify at the impeachment trial of Ms Arroyo if the proceeding pushed ahead, according to Escudero.

He said Dy would testify "in favor of our search for truth."

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., chair of the Senate investigation, said the chamber would conclude its inquiry if Dy fails to show up.

In Vigan City, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said Dy was still supporting Ms Arroyo. "All talks saying Governor Dy would testify against the President are unfounded as these are mere creations of the political opposition," Singson said.

Administration lawmakers also ganged up on Zuce, saying the series of rebuttals from credible people, including documentary and testimonial evidence, had exposed Zuce as a "suborned," or bribed star witness of the opposition.

Representatives Mauricio Domogan, Edwin Uy and Prospero Pichay said Zuce's claims had been shattered by Bayam's denial.

Archbishop Cruz said he had lost at least three witnesses who would have told the senators how Ms Arroyo benefited from jueteng. He said all had been bribed into silence.

In his count, Cruz did not include former jueteng bagman Richard Garcia who left his fold last week, tearfully telling reporters he wanted to return to a quiet life, and claiming opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson had told him to implicate the Arroyo family.

Fellow witness Sandra Cam said Garcia had received "a bag of money" from First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in exchange for leaving Cruz's Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng and clearing the First Family.

Curiously, Garcia never directly linked any member of Ms Arroyo's family to the illegal numbers game when he appeared before the Senate. The meat of his testimony was how local government officials manipulated police officers who refused to ignore widespread jueteng operations in their areas.

"These kind of cases could be prevented if we would properly screen the witnesses before they appear in public hearings," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in an interview with RMN radio.

Witnesses lost

Among the potentially explosive witnesses Cruz had supposedly lost was a Cabinet undersecretary who had initially contacted the bishop through another former government official, the prelate said.

As a "*cabalen*," or province mate, and a member of Ms Arroyo's inner circle, the man purportedly had direct knowledge of how jueteng lords helped finance her campaigns in the past. Cruz said this witness begged off at the last minute.

"I thought this administration has repeatedly pledged to clean the government of corruption and eradicate jueteng," he said. "But how come, instead of welcoming the jueteng probe, it wants it stopped and the witnesses discredited?"

Zuce, the first to claim publicly he witnessed the La Vista payoffs, is under fire for providing the most explosive and detailed testimony against the President so far, Cruz noted.

Also yesterday, Ernesto "Butch" Paquingan, a political consultant based in Cagayan de Oro City, told reporters that the camp of Sen. Serge Osmena, a client, had told him his testimony before the Senate was no longer useful to the opposition.

Zuce has said Paquingan helped him in his efforts to ensure Ms Arroyo's win in the balloting. But on Friday, Paquingan called Zuce a liar who had tried to enlist his support in Zuce's public appearance against Ms Arroyo.

Paquingan said Zuce had told him the opposition had offered Zuce P4 million to P5 million to testify against Ms Arroyo.

Paquingan said he also got a call from Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, a former client, who told him he was concerned about Paquingan's safety. Paquingan said Romulo asked him if he was being forced to testify against Ms Arroyo. Paquingan said Romulo advised him "to just tell the truth." *With reports from Gerry Lirio, TJ Burgonio, Michael Lim Ubac and Edson C. Tandoc Jr. in Manila; JB Deveza, PDI Mindano Bureau; and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Filipina pays dearly for fake designer specs

From page A1

lice, the Italian media reported Saturday.

The 51-year-old woman, who has been living in Italy for several years, paid 11 euros for an imitation pair of "Prada" eyeglasses from an illegal street vendor.

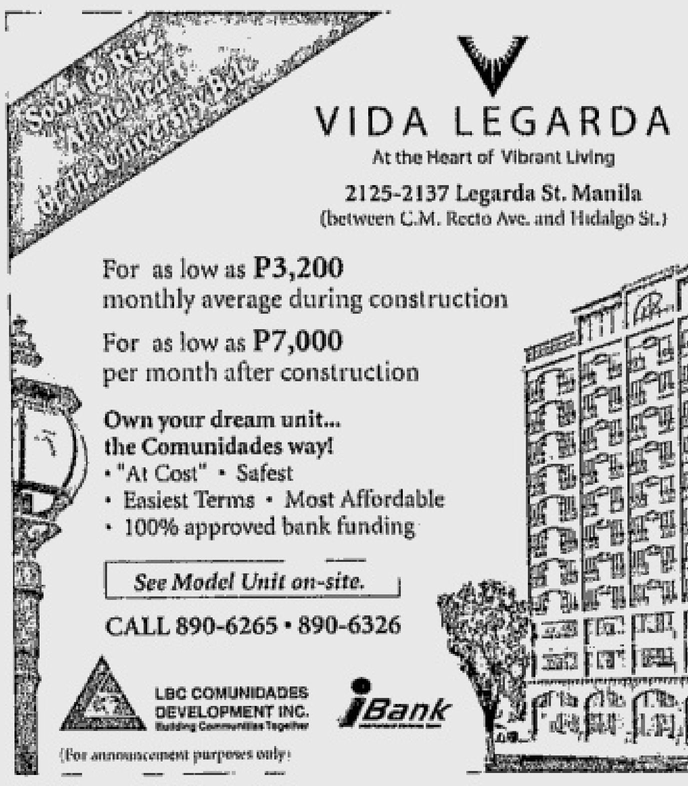
But after the police stepped in, it cost the Filipino woman 3,333 euros ($4,100).

Police in Florence were busy on Friday in a stricter enforcement of laws to protect copyrights. Two Belgian youths, for instance, were handed a 154-euro fine for each counterfeit CD they had purchased.

In only one day, police confiscated 1,159 counterfeit items, including 136 handbags, 200 CDs, 46 watches and 333 pairs of eyeglasses.

Florence launched its crackdown on counterfeit goods in May, setting fines as high as 10,000 euros for buying illegal merchandise.

Annual sales of counterfeit merchandise in Italy are estimated up to 6 billion euros, according to financial authorities. *AFP*



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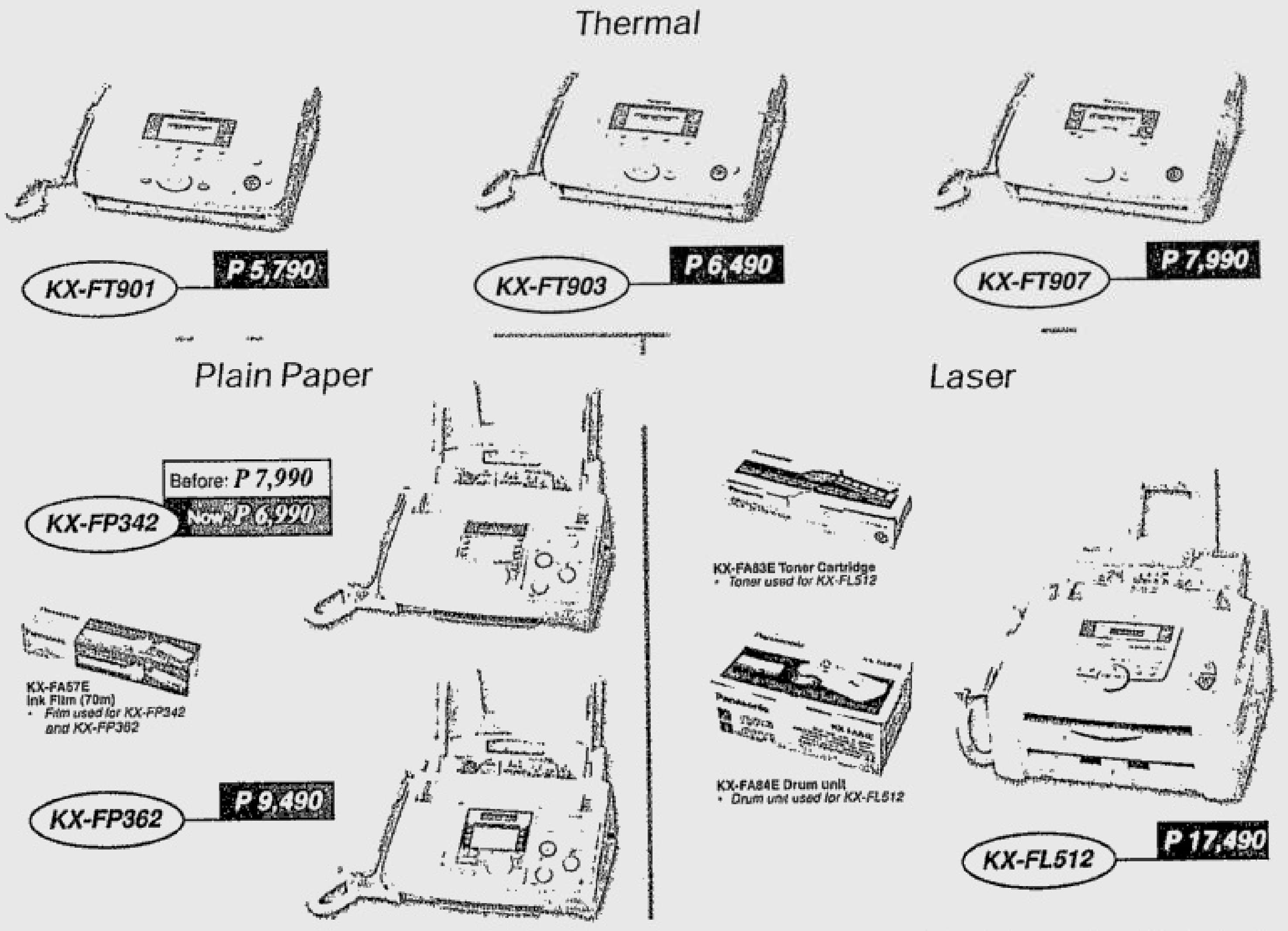

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ARMM polls today a test of credibility

From page A1

image," said Commissioner Resurreccion Borra of the Commission on Elections.

But Malacañang's purported support for the candidacy of Mayor Zaldy Ampatuan of Shariff Aguak (Maguindanao) for governor and the withdrawal of some gubernatorial challengers have cast a shadow on today's polls. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Voting starts at 7 a.m. amid the controversy hounding the Comelec and President Macapagal-Arroyo over allegations that she and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano conspired to rig the results of the May 2004 presidential election.

Garci is not Comelec

The ARMM was supposedly a major theater of vote-shaving and vote-padding operations allegedly directed by Garcillano, who has vanished from public view.

Saying those charges have first to be proven, Borra sought to allay fears of electoral fraud in today's exercise, citing measures adopted by the Comelec to make its results credible.

"Garcillano is not the whole Comelec," Borra said.

Twenty-one battalions of the Philippine Army and Marines, and five provincial commands of the Philippine National Police have been deputized to ensure the peace.

The Joint Task Force Hope commander, Brig. Gen. Muhammad Benjamin Dolorfino, has deployed special units from Naval Task Force 62 in Tawi-Tawi to reinforce troops in Lanao del Sur.

A Scout Ranger unit was deployed in Basilan and additional troops sent to Sulu.

Police have identified 115 "areas of immediate concern"—53 in Maguindanao, 58 in Lanao Sur and four in Tawi-Tawi.

Among the measures cited by Borra is allowing observers, a citizens' monitoring arm and the media to enter polling places, which had not been allowed before.

Centralized counting

Another measure is the centralization of counting in designated counting centers in every province.

Instead of counting being done at respective precincts at the close of voting at 3 p.m., the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) and the election materials will be hauled to designated counting centers.

These centers have standby generators in case of power failures to avoid "the mysteries that can happen in the dark," Borra said.

He said the odds for fraud were high when votes were counted at precincts which usually had no sufficient lighting equipment during night time.

In a statement, Ms Arroyo pledged to ARMM voters that the police and military would safeguard their vote. She said she had instructed the two security bodies to be "nonpartisan and fair."

'Reject extremism'

"Let us have an election that is free from goons, guns and gold—one that will strengthen autonomy, reject extremism, bring pride to our people and result in the election of leaders who will bring the ARMM to new horizons of peace and prosperity," she said.

Counting centers are set up in capital towns or cities, mostly in gyms and similar facilities, said Ray Sumalipao, Comelec assistant regional director for the ARMM. He said there would be simultaneous recording of votes in the tally sheet and tally board.

He said it would be easier to guard the counting given the wider space to accommodate poll watchers and election monitors.

Election returns will be brought directly to the Provincial Board of Canvassers for the provincial canvass to determine the Regional Legislative Assembly winners from every district.

Local election officers will have nominal roles in the poll conduct, the teachers being largely involved, said Sumalipao.

Best case scenario

The Comelec's best-case scenario is the proclamation of RLA representatives within two days from balloting, and regional winners in five days.

"The less the delay and the more open and transparent the process is, the more credible the results will be," Borra said.

He said the logistical requirements for the election had already been arranged, despite a "shoestring budget" of P200 million out of a P600-million fund request.

The election is widely seen as crucial for the ARMM as an institution for achieving the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people who are still mired in poverty and underdevelopment.

Dr. Camar Umpa, a political scientist and president of the Mindanao State University, said the election "will determine the future of the ARMM."

Umpa described the ARMM as "at a crossroad," awaiting redemption as an institution that will either advance the democratic aspirations of the Bangsamoro, or slide into irrelevance.

"We have a good crop of candidates," Umpa said.

When the autonomous region came into being about 15 years ago after decades of bloody separatist conflict, it offered fresh hopes to the country's large Muslim minority.

Carrot for rebels

It was created as a carrot to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which eventually signed a peace treaty with Manila in 1996. Its chief, Nur Misuari, was then elected ARMM governor.

Despite hundreds of millions of dollars being channeled into the ARMM, Misuari failed to usher in economic growth—two out of three people in the region live in poverty and only one in 10 children complete basic education.

Misuari fell from grace and landed in jail in 2001 after being accused of instigating a new rebellion.

ARMM still relevant?

His successor at the helm of the ARMM, MNLF stalwart Parouk Hussin, has withdrawn from the gubernatorial race, with Ms Arroyo throwing her support behind a non-MNLF candidate from a large Muslim political clan.

"The question is, is the ARMM still relevant? Since it was established, there has been little improvement in the lives of the people. The quality of life is actually retrogressing, not progressing," Zainudin Malang, head of the Center for Moro Law and Policy Concerns, told Agence France-Presse.

"A vast number of people don't care. ARMM is no longer relevant to their lives, and as a political vehicle, autonomy needs to be reexamined," he said.

"There is little sympathy for autonomy, there is little awareness of what the regional government has done and there is little knowledge of who the people are in the ARMM."

Shaky future

"We will be electing a new leader, but the ARMM future is uncertain," Malang said, urging the government to examine alternatives such as a federal state.

The government, fed up with the MNLF's failure, may also be using the ARMM election to politically ease out former rebels, said Julkipli Wadi, an Islamic studies professor at the state-run University of the Philippines.

"The government is pushing for the isolation of the MNLF to the fringes of the ARMM," Wadi said, warning that this may lead to another round of violence.

Boycott threat

Former MNLF leaders-turned-politicians have all said they will boycott the elections as a form of protest. They said they felt like men "abandoned in the wilderness to survive or die on their own."

It will be the fifth election in the region since ARMM was created in 1990 as an avenue for Muslim self-governance.

The governor and vice governor are elected throughout the region, while RLA representatives are elected from districts in each province.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos said he expected a peaceful turnout.

"I've been to Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Maguindanao in the past few days and all our Comelec officials assigned in these provinces reported to me that they have no problem as far as the election is concerned," Abalos said.

Flying voters

Each soldier or police serving in the election is entitled to P200 daily allowance. Teachers acting as election inspectors will get P2,000 each.

Abalos was optimistic there would be less flying voters in today's election as the poll body had already cleansed the voters list.

There will be at least 39 US observers. The British Embassy in Manila is sending at least three representatives and there will also be observers from Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

There are eight candidates running for governor, nine for vice governor and 112 for the 24 assemblyman slots. *Ryan D. Rosauro, Joeffrey Maitem, Julie S. Alipala and Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Edson C. Tandoc Jr. in Manila; and AFP*

3 bets pull out of gubernatorial race

By TJ Burgonio

THE WITHDRAWAL of some gubernatorial candidates in today's elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has cast doubts on the credibility of the polls, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

Outgoing ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin, House Deputy Speaker Rep. Gerry Salapuddin and ARMM Regional Legislative Assembly Speaker Hattamil Hassan pulled out of the race after failing to convince the administration to postpone the elections, Pimentel said.

He said the three withdrew because they believed that the situation was not conducive to holding "free and honest elections."

Pimentel called the withdrawal a "scathing indictment" of the electoral process and the Commission on Elections.

He claimed the Arroyo administration "is playing around with the ARMM."

"Not only the critics but allies of the administration themselves do not believe that the coming ARMM election will contribute to the political stability in the autonomous region," he said.

He said the MNLF was also boycotting the elections because it felt that it was being marginalized since Ms Arroyo was favoring certain candidates from her party.

Patronage politics

Pimentel said calls for the postponement of the elections were an offshoot of Malacañang's refusal to release funds to the Comelec so it could cleanse the voters registry.

Last week, Senate President Franklin Drilon urged the Comelec to relieve former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano's "team of operators" to ensure credible elections in the ARMM.

Garcillano is at the center of a wiretapping scandal involving alleged fraud in the 2004 elections.

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River carries off AUV, driver missing

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ELPIDIO de Vera thought he could drive across the small bridge, already under deep tumultuous water, on Saturday evening. But he was wrong.

He remained missing as of press time yesterday even as his FX taxi was recovered almost a hundred meters away down the Marikina River.

The 56-year-old driver was on his way home from Quezon City the other night when he decided to use the short route over the Tumana Bridge.

Some residents saw him approach the bridge leading to Barangay Concepcion Uno in Marikina City at about 9:30 p.m.

They felt surprise and were troubled.

The bridge, which was small and low, was already under water due to non-stop rain Friday, said Rudy Antonio, a barangay employee.

People helplessly watched as the white Tamaraw FX drove onto the bridge and inched forward.

Suddenly, he was stuck, as water swelled around him. Moments later, strong current pushed the vehicle off the bridge and into the rampaging river.

The taxi, with plate number UFG 416, was fished out of the river after more than 12 hours.

Residents had to use a tow truck to pull it out of the river, Antonio said.

But De Vera was nowhere to be found.

Search operations continued as of late yesterday.

BYSTANDERS check out the Tamaraw FX of Elpidio de Vera as it sits on the banks of the Marikina River. De Vera was still missing as of yesterday. RYAN LIM

MMDA gives cue to end days of colorum buses

THE DAYS of colorum buses are numbered —or so the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) believes.

With the looming implementation of the Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme, colorum buses would be easily identified said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios in a phone interview yesterday.

Cue cards would be issued to legally operating buses once they reached the endpoint terminals and these cards would be placed on the windshield of the buses.

Colorum buses would have no access to the cue cards as they would be barred from entering the OBR terminals, Vergel de Dios explained.

Roughly 700 buses ply Edsa route without a franchise, he said. *Jo R. Uy*

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ARROCEROS BATTLE ERIK ARAZAS
Father Robert Reyes (right, foreground) leads environmental activists in planting trees and putting black ribbons on trees already partially cut inside the Arroceros Forest Park. They gathered at the park yesterday to honor the late Sen. Raul Roco who himself planted trees in the urban forest.

METROBRIEFS

QC exec says tax collection slightly up

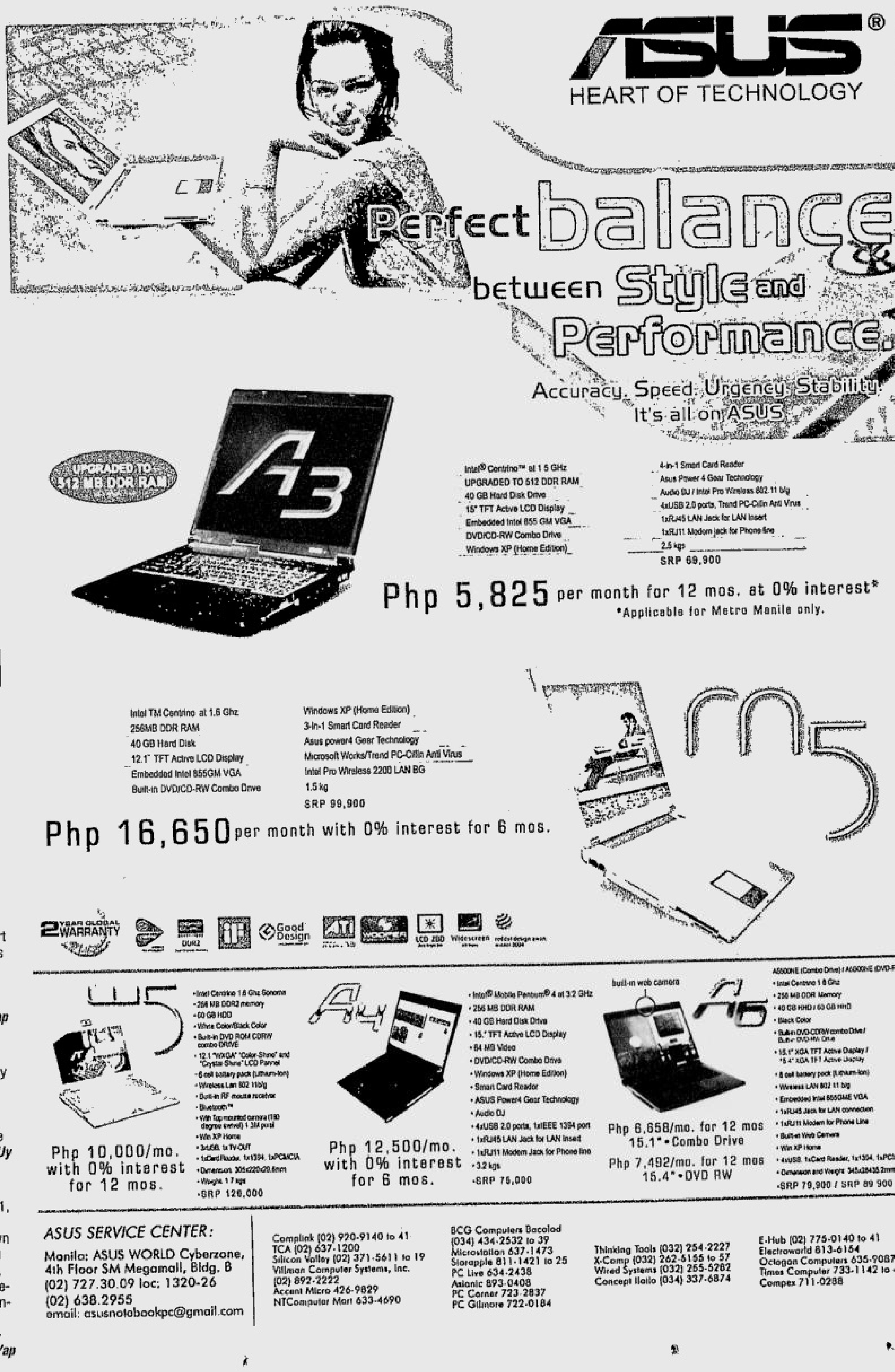
TAX COLLECTION in Quezon City was better from January to July this year from a year ago. City Treasurer Victor Endriga said the city's gross collection representing taxes and fees reached more than P5.4 billion, up by about P268 million or 5.25 percent. With the collection, the city's cash on hand now stands at P5.27 billion, Endriga said in a report to Mayor Sonny Belmonte. Business taxes, the city's major source of income, constituted the bulk of the collection at P2.1 billion, with an increase of 2.65 percent. *DJ Yap*

4 NCRPO men nabbed for extortion

LAWMEN SP04 Dante Mejatis, P03 Dennis Duran, P03 Rolando Te, P01 Butch Rodipa, all of the Regional Special Action Unit of the National Capital Region Police Office, were caught in an entrapment at about 9:30 p.m. Saturday extorting money from jeepney drivers plying the Multinational Village route, Parañaque City police said yesterday. The entrapment was set on the complaint of a driver. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Suspects in slay of captain's wife nabbed

POLICE have solved the killing Friday of an Army captain's wife inside their home in a Quezon City subdivision with the arrest of two suspects. The suspects, Marvin Pangilinan, 24, and McCoy Pangilinan, 19, who have had previous records for theft, were identified by the five-year-old son of victim Maria Theresa Banatao. The body of the 31-year-old wife of Capt. Alexander Banatao, 31, of the 73rd Infantry Battalion in Davao, was discovered before dawn Friday inside their house at Block 1 Lot 1-B, Summerville Subdivision, Barangay Sauyo. A third suspect remains at large, said investigator-on-case PO2 Ronaldo Nava. Banatao was reportedly killed during a robbery. *DJ Yap*



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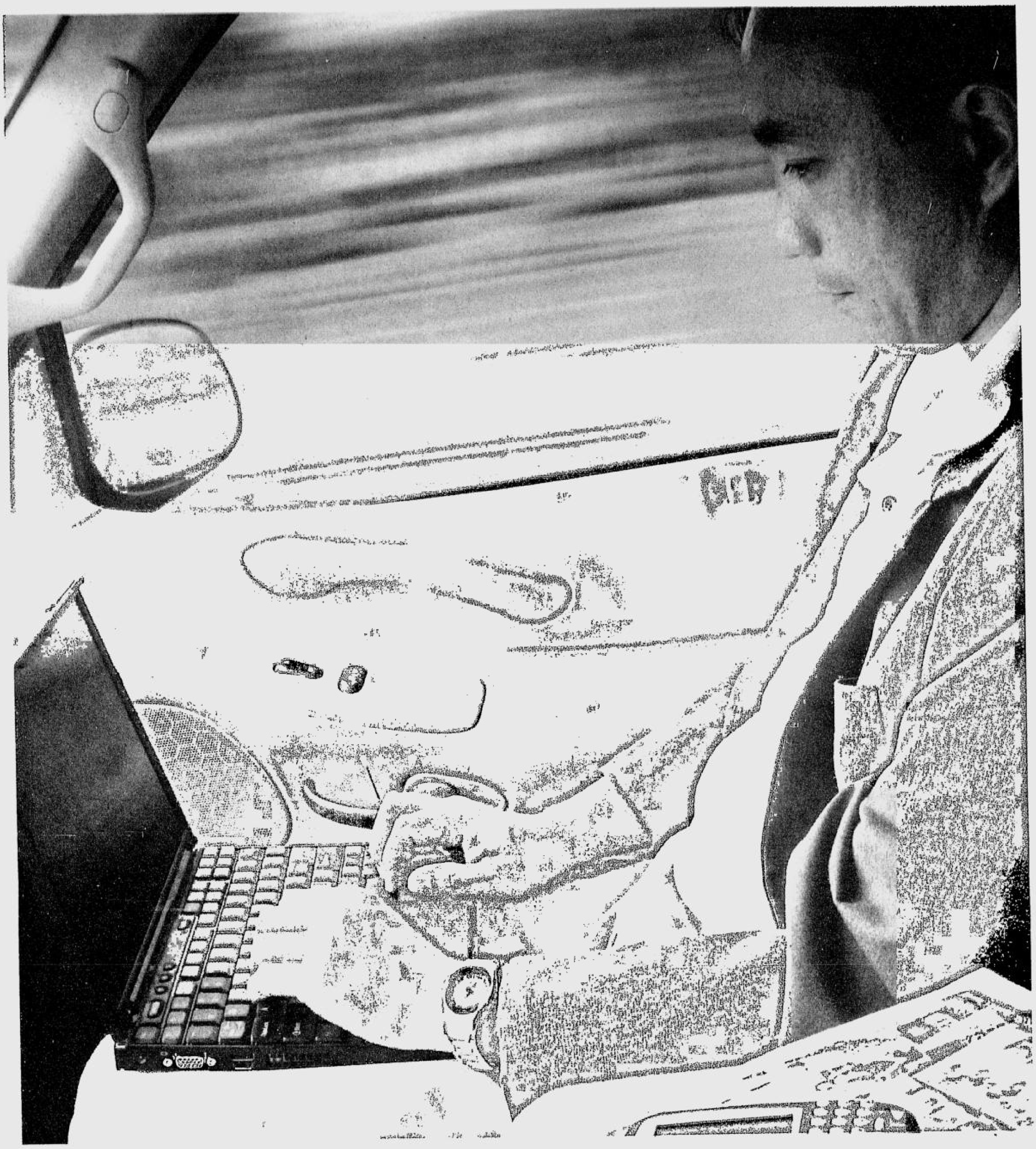

World Leading Semiconductor Manufacturer Cypress Finds the Ultimate Business Solution: PLDT WeRoam

As your car crawls through morning traffic enroute to your place of work, Lito Estacio is already in his. No, he didn't leave earlier than you did. He could actually be in the car behind you, commuting from his home in Alabang to the regional headquarters of Cypress Semiconductors, one of the world's leading manufacturer of electronic chips in Fort Bonifacio (ROHQ), or their world-class manufacturing plant in Cavite, Cypress Manufacturing Limited (CML). Everyday, Estacio, director of Cypress' IT group, opens his virtual office and is in contact with the multinational's world-wide operations, while most of us are still immobile in daily gridlock. "As early as six-thirty in the morning, I'm already plugged into our headquarters through PLDT WeRoam. I can electronically review status of projects, contracts, and organizational metrics. I start shooting off emails to all concerned to address issues and solve problems to get the business going effectively in this part of the world. I have actually become more productive during rush hour because I am virtually connected to my office–voice and data," he tells us happily. Three months ago, Estacio approved fifty PLDT WeRoam service units for key ROHQ and CML staff.

Cypress Semiconductor Corp.'s regional headquarters is located in the Philippines. Cypress product portfolio includes a broad selection of wired and wireless USB devices, CMOS image sensors, timing solutions, network search engines, specialty memories, high-bandwidth synchronous and micro-power memory products, optical solutions, and reconfigurable mixed-signal arrays found at the heart of any system that is built to perform: consumer electronics, computation, data communications, automotive, industrial, and solar power. Cypress, based in San Jose CA, ranks number 1 or 2 worldwide in the product divisions they compete in. Cypress stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol CY.

Around the World's Clock

PLDT WeRoam has given the staff throughout Cypress more freedom in the way they work, especially those who remained on 24/7 call in Cypress' multinational network. About 50% of Cypress Semiconductors' IT professionals are located in the Philippines supporting worldwide operations. "Cypress is a data-driven company and relies heavily on effective communication tools. Prior to PLDT WeRoam, support engineers and professionals can only have access to these tools if they are in the office or either have WiFi or DSL. Not anymore. An engineer can travel from Cavite to Baguio and still be able to stay in touch with his customers or team either to provide key support decisions or assist in repairs - regardless of location and timezone. An engineer's life may not be perfect but he can make perfect moments with PLDT WeRoam," says Estacio.

Cutting Wires, Cutting Costs

Cost savings with PLDT WeRoam goes beyond just adding more productive hours with staff on the move. "I have started to remove 24 dial-up lines that cost up to a thousand dollars per month and replaced it with 50 PLDT WeRoam. We get significant bandwidth improvement and accessibility at a lower cost. I expect the overall cost to go down further," says Estacio. An important role of Estacio's IT group is to bring costs down through technology, and PLDT WeRoam has helped achieve this objective.

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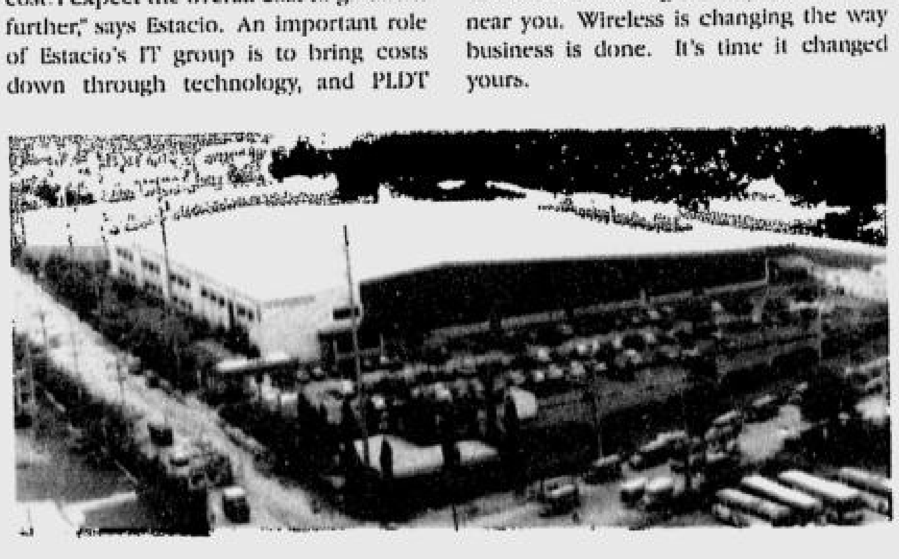

The Mobile Menu

Today's cafés are offering Wi-Fi access on the drink list. PLDT WeRoam gives you unlimited Wi-Fi access at more hotspots than any other Wi-Fi provider. And at speeds up to 2mbps, you may not need that extra shot of espresso.

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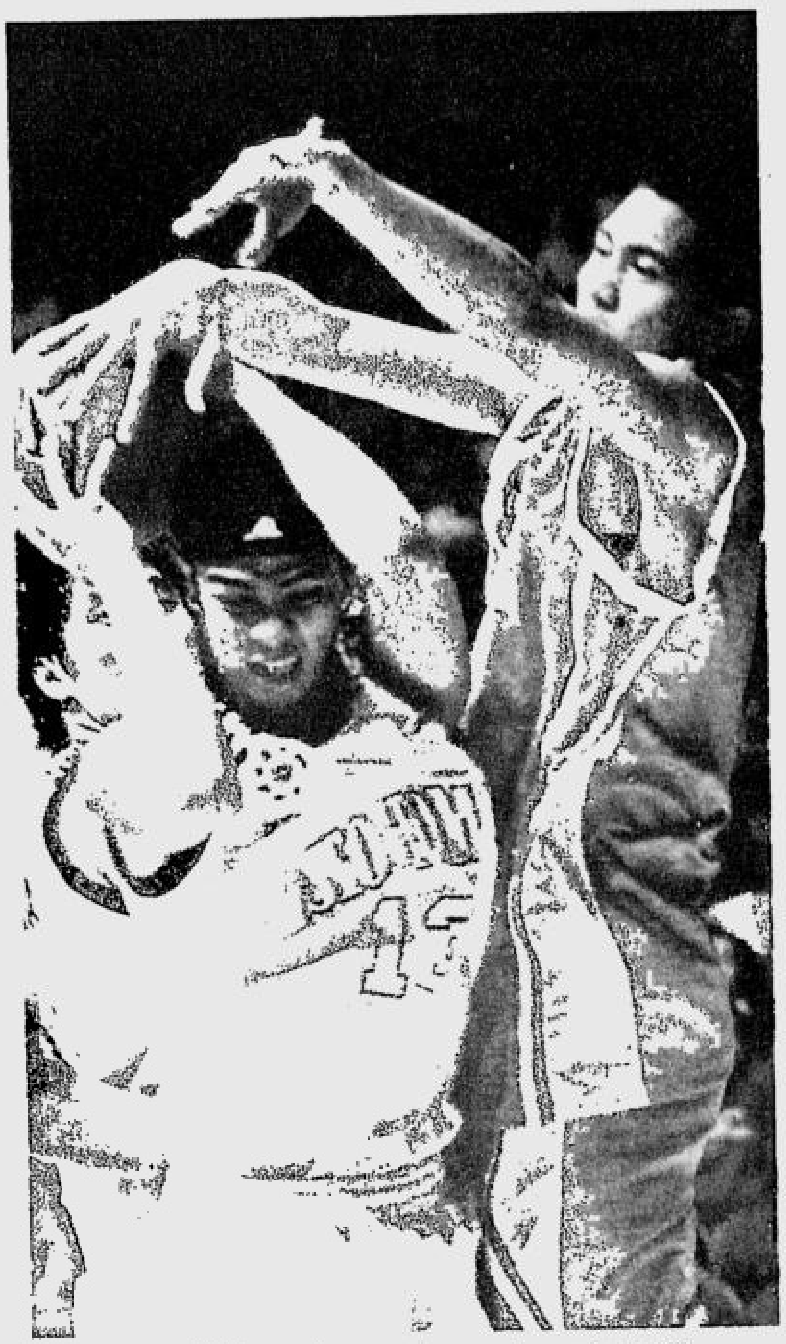
SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangulat

TENNIS: ATP Masters Montreal; 11 p.m.; STAR Sports—Check out round one from Canada.
MOTOR SPORTS: 2005 F1 Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights; 10 p.m.; STAR Sports—Shift to reverse and see Kimi Raikkonen's victory in Budapest.
BASKETBALL: NBA Rocky Mountain Revue–Hawks vs Sonics; 8 a.m. (r–11 p.m.); Solar Sports—Atlanta and Seattle clash in this off-season duel.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



JOJO Duncil of UST struggles to grab possession against a UE defender. The Warriors added to the Tigers' woes with an 84-68 rout yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Eagles whip Falcons, gain tie for 2nd spot

By Jasmine W. Payo

SHOWCASING their attacking flair, the Ateneo Eagles jumped to second place by clinching a fourth straight win yesterday at the end of the first round of the UAAP basketball tournament.

The Eagles, who opened the season with a lackluster performance, finished with a 5-2 record after dismantling the hapless Adamson Falcons, 91-75, at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We've come a long way considering our first game (against La Salle)," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "We're improving every game, our execution is much better. But it's still a long way to go, we have seven more games."

Senior point guard Macky Escalona shot 13 points for the Eagles, who took command right from the start. Veterans LA Tenorio, JC Intal and Magnum Membrere drilled in 12 points apiece.

The Far Eastern U Tamaraws topped the first round a day earlier with an unblemished 7-0 record.

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	7	0
Ateneo	5	2
UE	5	2
La Salle	4	3
UP	4	3
Adamson	2	5
UST	1	6
NU	0	7

GAMES SUNDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Univ. of Phils. vs Santo Tomas (Srs)
4 p.m.—Far Eastern vs Univ. of East (Srs)

The Eagles shared second place with the University of the East Warriors, who recovered just in time to secure an 84-68 victory over the University of Santo Tomas Tigers.

"In the last six minutes, we got our rhythm and aggressiveness back," said UE coach Dindo Pumaren.

The Warriors blew a 16-point advantage but point guard Earn Saguindel and 2004 Rookie of the Year Marcy Arellano fueled the Warriors' 20-1 barrage in the closing minutes.

Freshman forward Mark Borboran topscored with 17 points for UE while Arellano finished with 16 markers.

The Eagles seized control in the first quarter with a 12-0 tear, including two triples from Intal, for a 14-5 edge.

The Falcons, who absorbed their fourth straight loss, fell behind by as many as 31 points, 75-44, in the third quarter.

As the Warriors lost their shooting touch in the third quarter, the Tigers got their offense going and closed the period with a 16-4 spurt to push within two points, 54-52.

The Tigers even took the lead at 62-59, but failed to score a field goal during a six-minute stretch in the fourth period.

The Eaglets joined the Baby Tams on top at the close of the first round in junior play after overwhelming the Baby Falcons, 83-56.

EAGLES/ A26

Hopeful PBF submits formal Fiba bid in HK

HE DOES what is best for basketball.

With this reassuring thought, Philippine Basketball Federation (PBF) president Mauricio "Moying" Martelino submitted to Fiba president Dr. Carl Ching Men Ky last Saturday in Hong Kong a letter seeking affiliation with and recognition from the world basketball federation.

Martelino, together with Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) spokesperson Joey Romasanta and athletics and chess president Go Teng Kok, personally handed the letter and documentation substantiating the application as the country's new basketball body.

MARTELINO

Go, also the special assistant to the POC president, met Martelino and Romasanta in Hong Kong to confer with Ching at the Fiba president's office in the Century Park Building in Wanchai. Go came in from the World Athletics Championships in Helsinki, Finland.

Ching welcomed the Philippine delegation warmly and carefully studied the documents during the meeting. He said he would take up the application with Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann when they meet at the World Junior Men's Championship in Argentina on Wednesday.

Ching also suggested that the PBF send the original papers to the Fiba central office in Geneva to formalize the application.

"I believe Mr. Ching will help the cause of Philippine basketball and the PBF," said Martelino, who was Asian Basketball Confederation (now Fiba-Asia) secretary general for seven years when Ching was ABC president.

"Based on my past experiences with Mr. Ching, I know him to do what is best for basketball. The PBF has now complied with the Fiba's requirements for affiliation."

Romasanta said the meeting was "positive" and he was encouraged by Ching's warm reception.

"I see no reason why Fiba will continue to suspend the Philippines," said Romasanta. "Our priority is to convince Fiba to lift the suspension immediately."

The Fiba suspension came after it rejected the expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines from the POC last month. The world body said it would continue to recognize the BAP until it finishes its own probe on the POC-BAP row.

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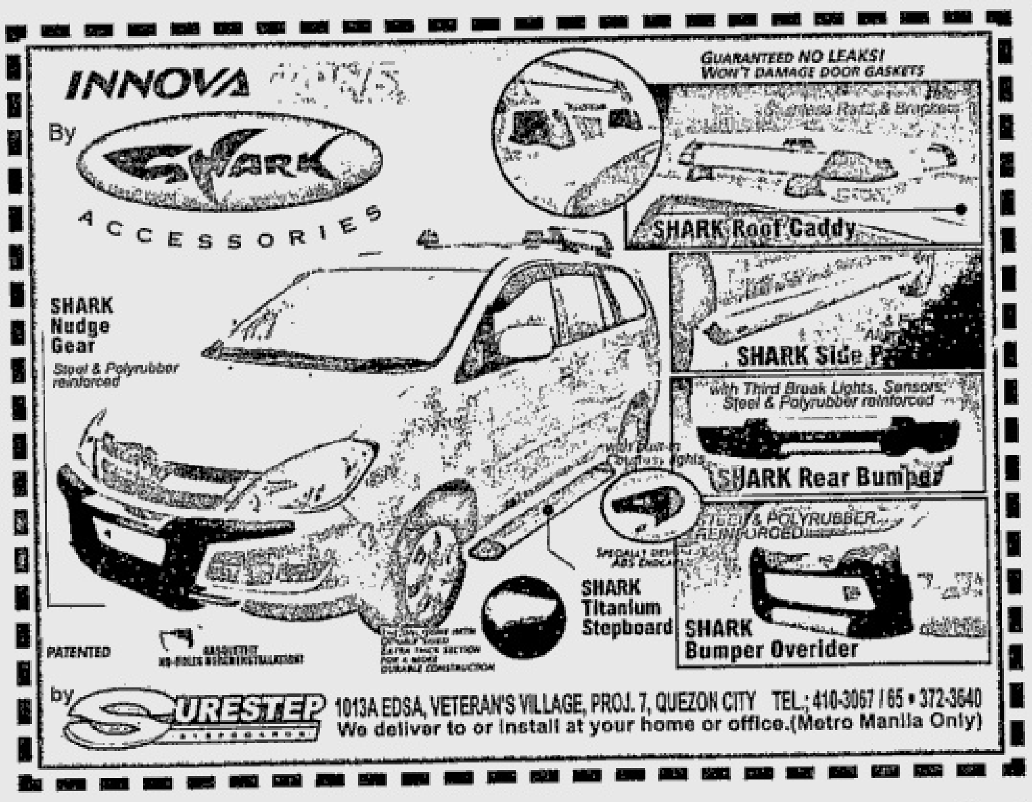

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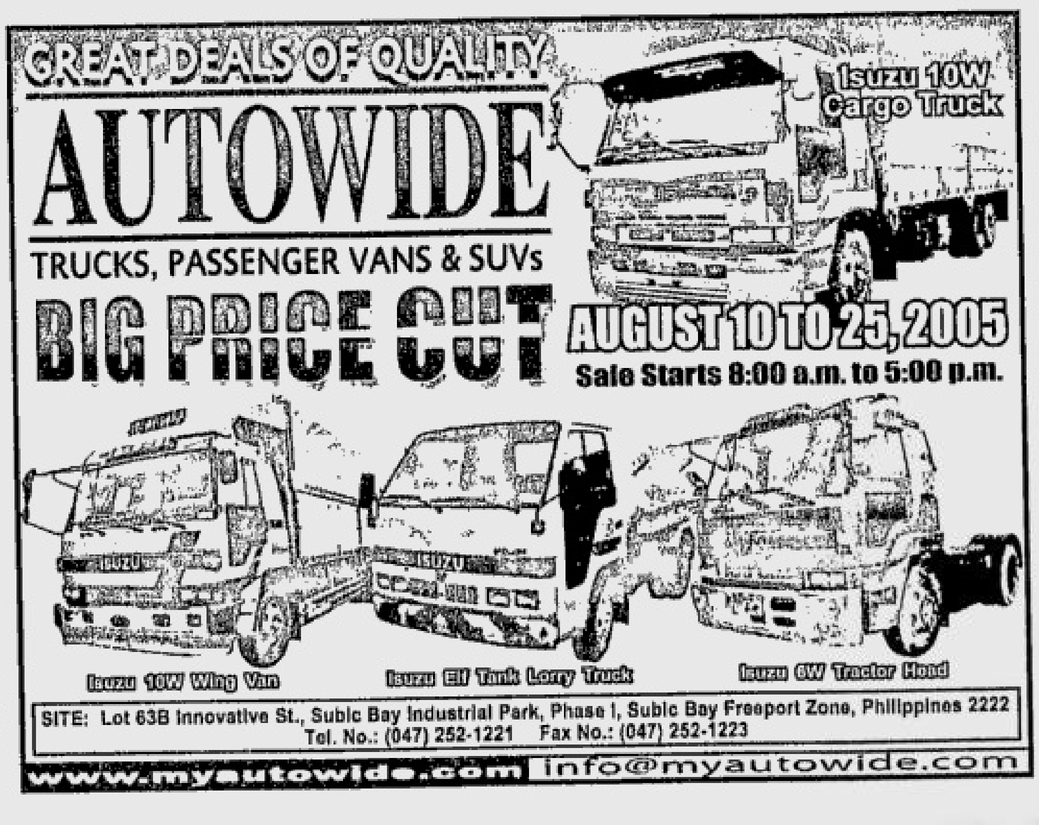

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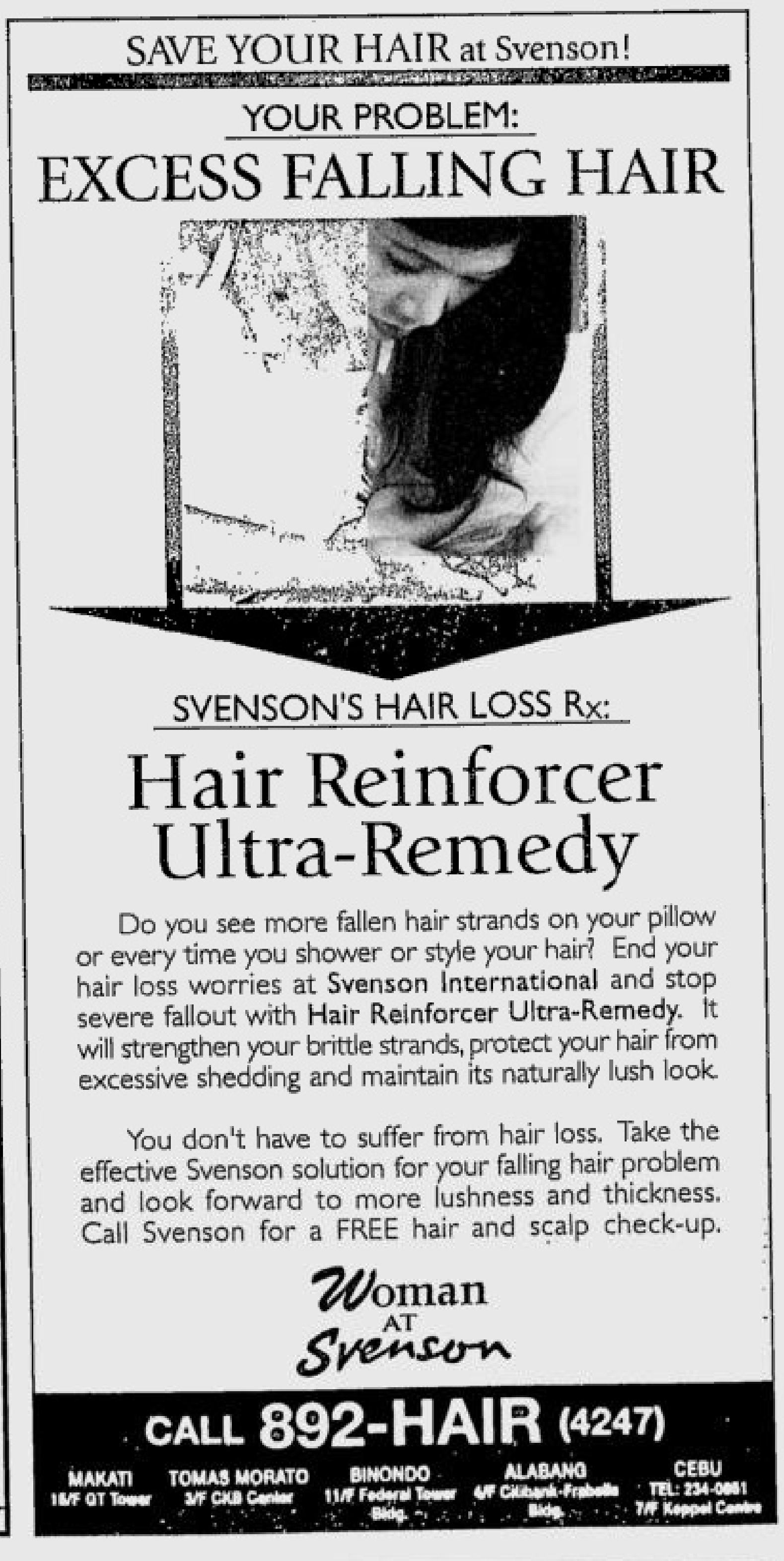

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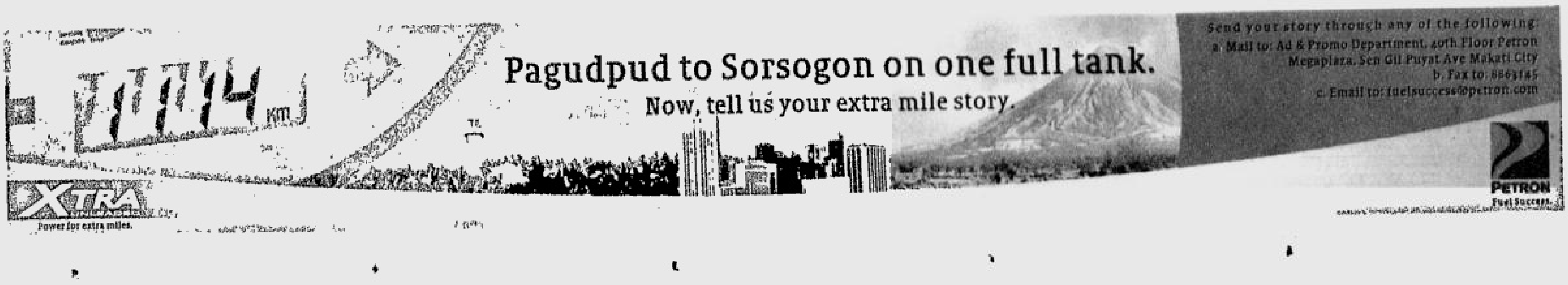

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SEAG seen as unifying event for Filipinos

RAMIREZ: We can now assess and improve our preparations.

AWARE of the current economic and political turmoil in the country, visiting delegates from Malaysia and Singapore believe the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games will help unite Filipinos and strengthen the host nation.

The message was made by the foreign representatives, composed of five teams from the two countries, on the final day of their week-long familiarization tour of the different venues and facilities to be used in the 11-nation meet the Philippines is hosting on Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

"The Philippines needs the SEA Games," Low Beng Choo, the vice president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, told local media following a conference yesterday at the Starbucks 6750 in Makati.

"Sports, particularly during this difficult times, could help unify a nation."

Low, also the chef de mission of Team Malaysia in the Philippine SEA Games, added that the Games hosting is a good means for the country to unite its political leaders, get the people involved and make the staging of the meet a successful one.

"We don't need luxurious venues," said the Malaysian official. "We have to go back to the basics, and that is to foster the spirit, cooperation and virtue of the Games."

The Malaysian and Singaporean officials conducted an assessment on the venues, hotels and the progress of the country's preparation for the SEA Games.

"So far, we've seen the progress of the preparation of the organizing committee, which is working so hard to ensure the success of the Games," said Team Singapore's manager Chua Boon Yeow, referring to the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee chaired by Roberto Pagdanganan.

Also present during Saturday's dialogue were Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair William "Butch" Ramirez and SEAG Task Force members Carlos "Butch" Tuason, Harry Angping, Nestor Ilagan, Mario Tanchangco, Red Dumuk and Tessa Mangahas of the First Gentleman Foundation.

"With this advance visit of sports leaders in Malaysia and Singapore, we can assess and improve our preparations," said Ramirez, who accompanied the officials during their visit to Cebu City.

Eagles whip Falcons . . .

From page A25

The UST Cubs thwarted the Pages, 72-57, for a 3-4 card.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

ATENEO 91—Escalona 13, Membrere 12, Intal 12, Tenorio 12, Kramer 8, Laterre 7, Arao 7, Del Rosario 5, Barracoso 5, Quimson 2, Reyes 1, Nazareno 0, Al-Hussaini 0.

ADAMSON 75—Hate 17, Tiongco 13, Capati 10, Cabahug 10, Bono 8, Gonzalgo 7, Canuday 5, Tajonera 2, Hugnatan 2, Poloyapoy 1, Pacheco 0, Yong 0, Basilio 0.

Quarters: 24-15, 50-36, 82-52, 91-75

Second Game (Srs)

UE 84—Borboran 17, Arellano 16, Saguindel 10, Raymundo 10, Gregorio 8, Custodio 8, Labagala 6, Cañizares 4, Lapeña 3, Espiritu 2, Palaganas 0, Martinez 0.

UST 68—De Guzman 18, Pribhdas 11, Duncil 8, Cuan 7, Cortez 6, Evangelista 4, Ababou 4, Taylor 3, Espiritu 0, Dizon 0, Crisostomo 0.

Quarters: 16-20, 41-28, 54-52, 84-68.

Rudy Salud mourns the death of humility

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

GOOD news this morning, for those who honestly care for their poor fellowmen, is the outpouring of support for Romy Cabading, the former RP and PBA player who was left dying on the road after being hit by a reckless tricycle driver in Villasis, Pangasinan, recently.

Friends led by Lito Puyat, former president of both the Fiba and the BAP, and lawyer Rudy Salud, founding sec-gen of the World Boxing Council, have sent in donations which, together with other contributions, will be acknowledged before we deliver everything to the fallen former national athlete, a member of the 1974 RP Youth team who later played for the Concepcion Industries and U-Tex franchises in the pro league.

Cabading broke his right arm and his head slammed on the concrete road. He was taken to the hospital in comatose condition, another victim of wild, straying tricycles which this hard-working government could not take off the highway despite an open ban.

Cabading, crushed and cheated, needs continuous treatment to help him recover his full senses.

He cannot work anymore.

* * *

Sad news, on the boxing front, involves Cebu's Z Gorres, who has lost the main propeller to his dream flight towards a world crown.

The INQUIRER was able to confirm yesterday that sportsman Rudy Salud has disassociated himself from the management team that handles Gorres.

This shocker does not mean Gorres has totally squandered his chances for a world title with the exit of Salud.

However, it's on record that, before Salud came to the side of the young Cebuano fighter, Gorres was just another aspirant who could've ended up washing the dishes, push or miss a few sloppy punches.

Can Gorres go on and get a crack at a world crown without the selfless backing of the noted lawyer-sportsman?

* * *

If the result of his last outing would be the gauge, Gorres may have to get a dozen more godfathers of Salud's caliber in order to move up.

That forgettable bout, which had fans cursing Gorres' lack of guts and sharpness, confirmed suspicions that the Cebuano protégé had all the while been overrated.

Maybe Salud, who spent a fortune in propping Gorres up for a possible crack at a world crown, was also to blame.

Before fans could wonder what the big letter Z stood for in the young Cebuano's *nom de guerre*, Salud had found a way of projecting Gorres as the next big boxing hope hereabouts.

True enough, with Salud goading and supporting the young boxer in a team-up with Cebu sports patron Tony Aldeguer, Gorres soon won the RP flyweight crown.

* * *

It was odd how Gorres next lost the title to Edgar Rodrigo via stoppage at the Makati Coliseum. But although glaring flaws were exposed in that bout, Salud was the first to console and assure Gorres that his quest for a world crown had not been derailed.

Gorres fought again, strung up a series of wins, before being declared ready for foreign training.

Gorres first considered Freddie Roach, hailed as the architect of Manny Pacquiao, without a crown but still the richest, biggest name in Philippine boxing.

However, Salud, wanting to provide the best, opted to send Gorres to the camp of the revered Buddy McGirt in the United States.

Salud refused to take credit for it, but Gorres next ended up in the undercard of Pacquiao's big bout versus Mexican icon Erik Morales in Las Vegas last March.

Gorres won that outing early in the first round, clipping and stopping his worthless foe with a couple of punches.

* * *

Anyway, the agreement was for Gorres to fight another bout in the United States after that knockout victory.

However, the young boxer had started to feel terribly homesick.

Salud begged him to bear up with the blues, fight just one last fight before coming home.

Gorres agreed, but next Salud heard of him, his protégé had flown home, going straight to Cebu from the international airport.

Gorres was supposed to call Salud the weekend of his arrival, but the young fighter kept his top handler waiting.

To make the long story short, patron and protégé finally met to iron out details of a new contract, signed by both Salud and Aldeguer.

Gorres refused to sign. Salud countered by asking Gorres to cool off, think over the terms which, the sportsman swore, were thoroughly beneficial to the young boxer.

* * *

Impossible. The contract talks bogged down.

Salud, his sincerity slurred, wasted no time. He wrote off the millions in expenses and wished Gorres the best of luck.

Curiously, everybody, including his close friends and this reporter, had thought Salud was still behind Gorres in that tasteless, gutless outing in San Andres on July 30.

The confirmation that Salud had disassociated himself from Gorres days before that forgettable fight brought some relief.

But here's a disturbing side to this report.

Close associates of Salud, present when boxer and manager discussed terms of the contract, were one in saying it was a totally different Gorres they saw and heard during the negotiations.

Arrogant would be too tame to describe him, said an ally who drives Salud around—"*Lumaki ang ulo, iba na pagkagaling sa* America."

Salud told the INQUIRER he honestly did not notice the cheap behavior.

But he could not hide how he felt about the tragic death of humility in the young boxer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Monday, August 08, 2005

bi-kuso
Joey De Leon
Gladys Guevarra
and Mahal
ABC
Wow mali ng Mali!
NGAYONG SABADO 9PM

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Ting ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo	Ting ng Bayan (Live)		Concert at the Park				Teledyaryo		Ting ng Bayan (Live)		Dial M			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Winner TV Shopping		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	Guinness Book Of Record		Fear Factor		Big News	Look Who's Talking		Battle At The Bridges	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Friends	Shaman King	Full Metal Alchemist	Full House		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Simple Life 2		For Love Or Money 3		Biggest Loser		Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Cargo For Truth	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		MTV		Men of Power	Basketball Show		King Of Adventure		IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Evening Devotions	
Studio 23						Super Gals		Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model	Tru Calling		Charmed		News Central	The Next Joe Millionaire		Travel Time
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				ESPN Great Outdoor Games				Pool/Snooker Rock 'Em Up 4		Asian X Games '05 Seoul		Sportscenter Asia	Table Tennis '05 Kitanspin	Motorsport Asia	Premier Snooker League '04				Sportscenter Asia
Sports Plus								Ultimate Fighting Championship			Tour De France					The International Final Rd.			
Cinemax			Look Who's Talking Now! 3.45PM				Free Willy				Breaking The Silence			An Officer And A Gentleman				Landslide	
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Wife Swap					Regenesis (10.35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye 11:25PM
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/ Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	The Tigger Movie			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	The Amazing Zorro	
Discovery Channel		Body Work		Mummy Autopsy		Wild Tech		Flying With Condors		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Blueprint For Disaster		What The Ancients Know	
National Geographic		Built For The Kill		Cliffhangers		Wild Life Adventure		Dogs With Jobs	Haydan Turner's Wildlife Challenge	Wow! Whale Induna		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Built For The Kill		Cliffhangers	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Pet Alien	Atomic Betty	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Pet Alien	Atomic Betty
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Motto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! 101 Sensational Crime Of Fashion		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Life Is Great With Brooke Burke	Luxury Adventures	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	The King Of Queens	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Becker	Wonderfalls		Friends	The King Of Queens
AXN		Lost		Worst Case Scenario		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	PSI Factor (Season III)		Beastmaster		Now See This	Now See This	Fear Factor (Season V)		When Animals Attack		When Animals Attack	
JackTV	Drawn Together	South Park	Street Smarts	Wwe Heat		WWE Velocity		Cheat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Kid Notorious	Comedy Central Presents	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		Who Wants To Marry My Dad	
HBO			Tommy Boy (3.35 PM)			Multiplicity (5.10 PM)				Indiana Jones The Temple Of Doom				Dark Waters			The Untouchables		
Star Movies				Married To The Mob (3.50 PM)			12 Days Of Christmas(5.35PM)			28 Days Later (7.15 PM)				Bicentennial Man				Saving Jessica Lynch (11.15PM)	
Cinema One		Gaano Kadalas Ang Minsan				Till We Meet Again		Otso-Otso, Pamela-Mela Wan				All My Life				American Rhapsody			
EWTN	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Angelus (3.15 PM)	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Faith Factory A	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Groeschel		Daily Mass		Angelus (9.15 PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	St. Matthew Evangelist Of The Church	Getting God's Help	Catholic Compass	

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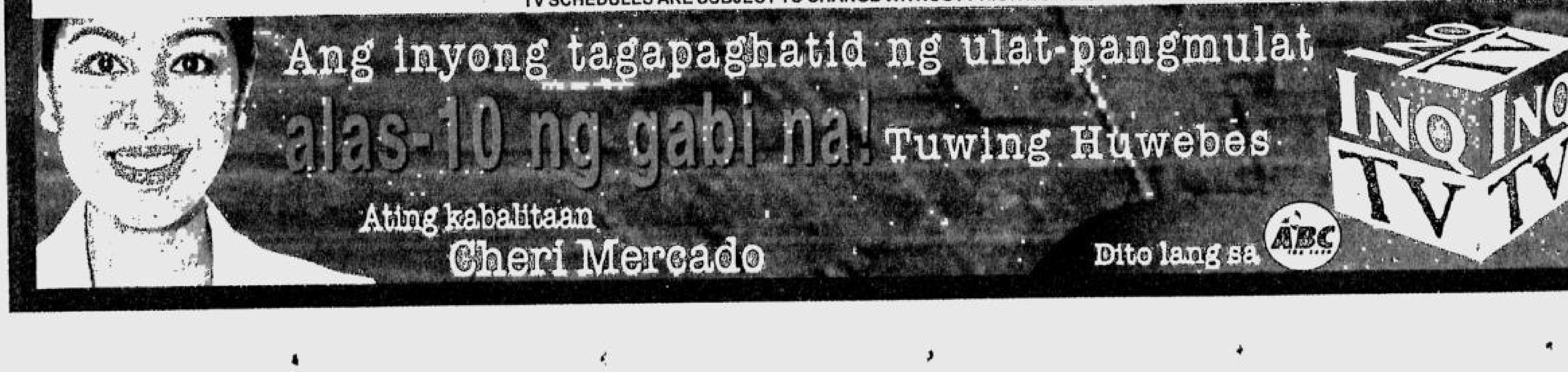
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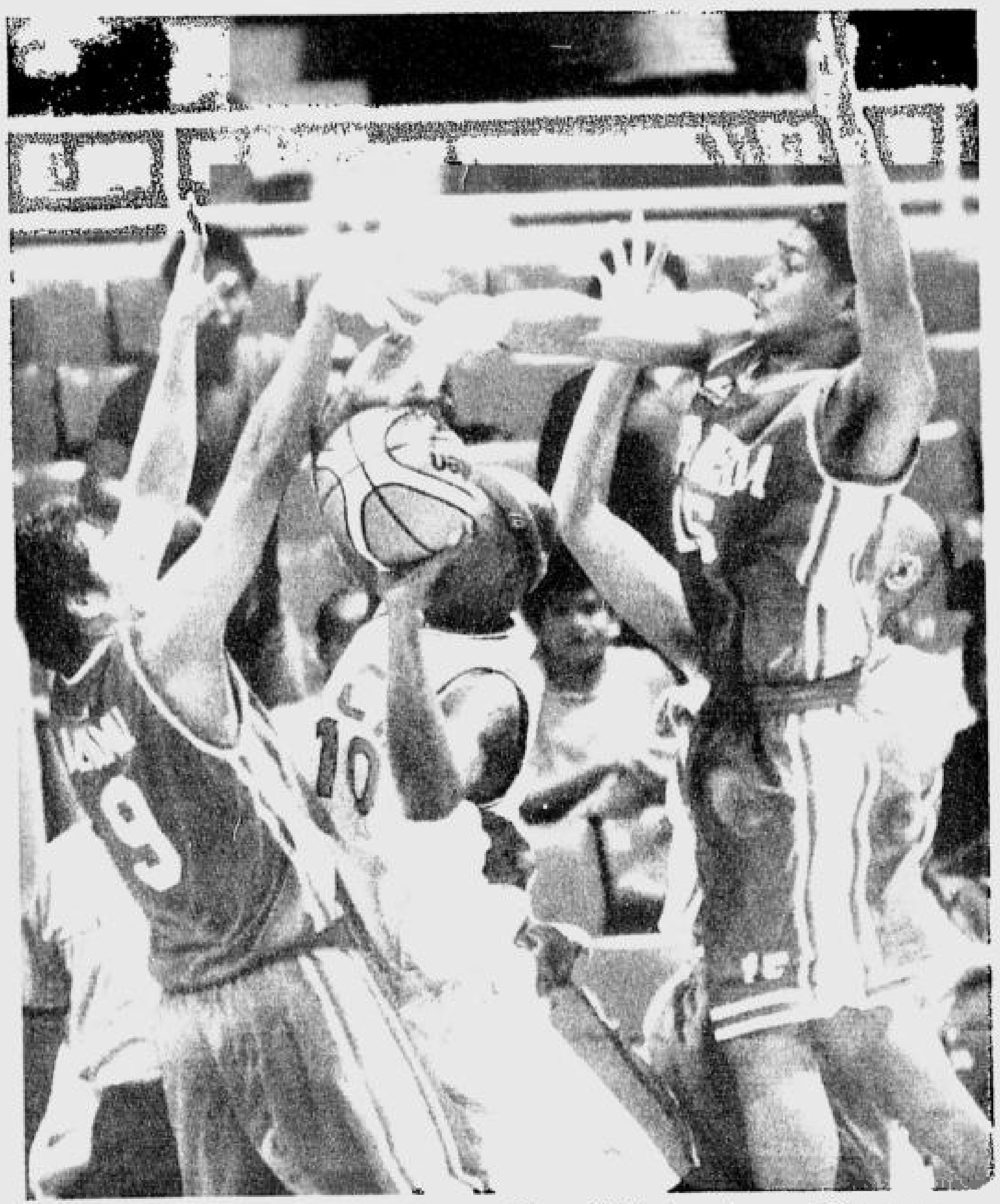
Knights seek No.9 vs resurgent Altas



SAN BEDA'S Yousif Aljamal (left) and Rogemar Menor (right) clamp down on PCU's Gabby Espinas. The Lions' defense has been ticking leading to a resurgence in the NCAA. RYAN LIM

GETTING the Knights' first five to play with fire right off the reel is now a major concern of Letran coach Louie Alas.

And whether Alas has succeeded in priming up his starters will be known today when the Knights gun for their ninth straight win against the University of the Perpetual Help Altas at 1 p.m. at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"We can't start like this in our succeeding games," said Alas, after the Knights surprisingly struggled before posting a 63-58 win over the cellar-dwelling Jose Rizal U Bombers last Wednesday.

"We started flat, we had passive starters," noted Alas.

In the second match, the Mapua Cardinals (5-3) will try to get back on the winning track when they go up against the JRU Bombers (1-7) at 2:30 p.m.

The Cardinals shot only 28 percent in their 67-40 loss against the Altas last Wednesday. Their 40-point output was also the lowest in the league this season.

Coach Bai Cristobal believes his Altas (3-5) have finally found their groove after a disappointing performance in the first round.

"Our offensive strength is there, we just have to keep on attacking," said Cristobal, whose Altas will be gunning for their third straight win.

In their recent triumph against Jose Rizal U, sophomore guard Conrad Bauzon drilled in 18 of his 21 points from the three-point area.

The Altas, runners-up last season, remains confident of their semifinal chances after moving just a win away from fourth-placer San Sebastian Stags.

"I think we can still make it to the Final Four," said Cristobal. "We just have to take it a game at a time."

With such renewed confidence, Alas is expecting a tough game against Perpetual. "The Altas are showing their real worth so we have to be ready," he said.

The Cardinals were a shadow of their dominating form against the Altas, with top gunners Kelvin dela Peña and Joferson Gonzales combining for only 16 points.

The cellar-welling Bombers will rely on junior guard Jenciano Domancas and rookie forward Floyd Dedicatoria.

Jasmine W. Payo

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	8	0
PCU	6	2
Mapua	5	3
SSC	4	5
Perpetual	3	5
San Beda	3	6
St. Benilde	3	6
JRU	1	7

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs Perpetual (Jrs)
1 p.m.—Letran vs Perpetual (Srs)
2:30 p.m.—Mapua vs JRU (Srs)

Oro Stars pull rug from under Laguna Spring

CAGAYAN DE ORO—The Cagayan de Oro Stars stunned undermanned Laguna Spring in overtime, 99-95, at the Corpus Christi gym here Saturday for their first back-to-back wins in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship.

Roderick Ramos, Donald Tadena and Andrew Neri combined for 11 of the Stars' 14 points in the extra period to give former Misamis Oriental Gov. Antonio Calingin's Stars their third victory in seven games.

Mike Nuqui's basket in the last three seconds forced the overtime but the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro ran out of steam as they missed the services of Val Domingo, Marlon Kalaw, Dondon Villamin and Mel Latoreno, who attended the PBA Rookie Camp.

"It's all about heart," said Stars' coach Andy Calingin. "We do not have name players, but the boys simply have big hearts."

The loss dropped Laguna's record to 5-4 in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Ramos and Ronan Isidro paced the Stars with 28 and 22 points, respectively, while Rodel Manuel led Laguna with 17.

Hapee/Dewfoam-backed Mantawi faces unbeaten Forward Taguig at 6 p.m. today at the C.P. Tiñga gym in Taguig City.

The scores:

CDO 99—Ramos 28, Isidro 22, Neri 15, Tadena 12, Diango 7, Jabagat 6, Culdora 5, Romaguera 4, Numeran 0, Torres 0, Rivera 0.

LAGUNA 95—Manuel 17, Corbin 16, Mallari 14, Manucat 14, Reyes 10, Caceres 9, Nuqui 7, Proceso 4, Mendoza 2, Nolasco 2, Roda 0.

Quarters: 24-22, 53-42, 68-65, 85-all (reg), 99-95 (OT).

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PCA net bets top home & away tennis

PHILIPPINE Columbian Association (PCA) shut out Mandaluyong Tennis Club, 4-0, in their best-of-seven championship series at the PCA courts Saturday to put away the 1st Prince Home and Away Interclub Team Tennis title.

The PCA netters started strong with wins by Ed Reyes and Conrad Francisco over Tony Cruz and Rolly Cruz, 8-4, and by Rina Caniza and Joy Sanchez over Vivien Pena and Edna Grecia, 8-0.

In the next two matches picked by Mandaluyong, PCA still dominated as Hanky Lee and Aldrin Geluz downed Allan Badillo and Toto Ramirez, 8-2, and Boy Santos and Albert Chiu survived Baby Gregorio and Boy Quintana, 8-4.

The two teams agreed not to play the no-bearing next three matches of the tie in the event supported by Yellow Cab, Toby's Sports & Hobbies and Nassau Tennis Balls

Former Davis Cupper Michael Misa of PCA bagged the Most Valuable Player award with an unblemished 11-0 win-loss record. Vernon Salas and Tres Banez won the Best Doubles Team for Men award with their 4-0 record, while Caniza and Sanchez bagged the Best Doubles Team for Women award with their 10-0 run.

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Roddick reaches

WASHINGTON—To
dick and unseeded
straight-set semifin
vance to the final at
nis Classic on Saturc

Roddick beat 13th-seeded P
2, advancing to a final for the
then beat 10th-seeded Tomas
6-4, 6-3, in the other semifinal

Roddick and Blake in the fin
guaranteed to have won each
events.

Roddick, who last reached
will be going for his fourth titl
career on Sunday. Blake's lo
2002.

"He's a good friend, and
matches," said Blake, who la
two years ago. "We're friends
want to go out and beat each
we're both professionals and w

In the first semifinal, Rod
tiebreaker to win the first set a
of the second set as he imp
Srichaphan to 6-1.

"My getting that break was
the 2001 tournament champio

"I felt like I was in control o
I felt like I turned the corner
like I'm in a groove."

In the match, Roddick wo
points, 85 percent of his secon
including one clocked at 141 m
ond set.

Stouda
a new

MEMPHIS, Tennesse
Stoudamire has signed a fou
tract with the Memphis
boosting the rebuilt backc
National Basketball Associat

The free agent point guar
past seven seasons with Port
try to turn a team that made
the past two seasons into one
finally win a post-season gam

"I look forward to not o
that win but reaching the ul
and winning a championsh
phis," Stoudamire said.

The Grizzlies sent guard
to Sacramento for center Gr
and guards Bobby Jackson
Williams away while obtai

MARY Pierce stretches to re

Pierce n

CARLSBAD, California
used an overpowering g
beat unseeded Peng Shu
2, 6-2, Saturday and
match at the Acura Class

The sixth-seeded Pierce
the outset and gave the
chances to pull off a fourth

Ai Sugiyama will oppos
nal after Akiko Morigami
ond set of the other semi
dinitis in her right knee
leading, 6-4, 4-3, when M
quits in a matchup of unse

The match marked th
Japanese players faced of

Annika l

LODDEKOPINGE, S
Sorenstam hit seven bir
der 67 to take the third
urday in the Scandinav

Sorenstam, who is h
tournament, had a 4-u
Barseback.

Norway's Suzann Pet
was one shot behind afte

France's Gwladys No
a Solheim Cup berth
Crooked Stick, Indiana,

United States' Natalie
est ranked player in the fi
stam, hit a 69 to be anoth

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8 D' ANOTHERS
9 YEAR OF THE YAO
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2 LEGENDARY STREET FIGHTERS
3 MATAMIS HANGANG DULO
4 RESERVED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 ALIPIN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) STEALTH
5 D' ANOTHERS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 STEALTH
3 YEAR OF THE YAO

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 SIN CITY

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) RESERVED
6 RESERVED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 D' ANOTHER
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 D' ANOTHER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 (DTS) THE ISLAND

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
2 RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 D' ANOTHERS

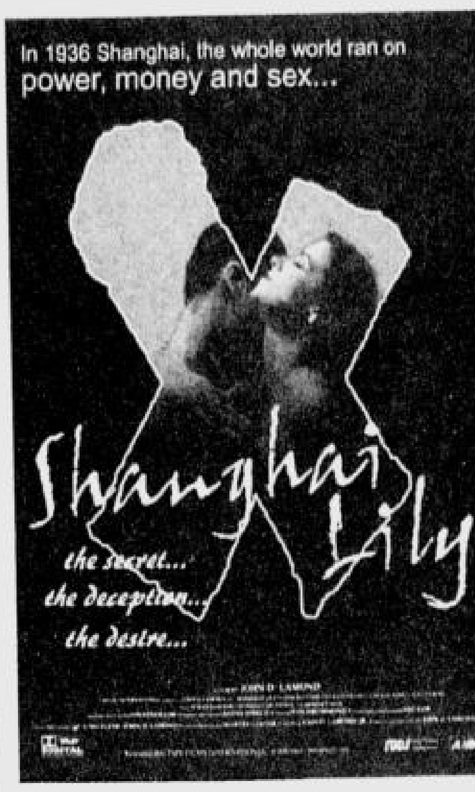
Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) WAR EAGLE
2 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
3 GAMITAN
4 (DTS) THE ISLAND

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) STEALTH
2 IN GOOD COMPANY
3 (DTS) EVIL DEAD
4 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
5 D' ANOTHERS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 GRACIA
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
4 D' ANOTHERS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 NENA
2 NEW POLICE STORY

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



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P120 RESERVED SEATS
GLOBE PLATINUM P299/P249
P140 THE ISLAND & STEALTH
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

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CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25
YEAR OF THE YAO
1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
CRASH
1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
EYE INFINITY
12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
STEALTH
2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 1:35 / 4:05 / 6:35 STEALTH 9:00
D' ANOTHERS
12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
IF ONLY
1:05 / 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00
WEDDING CRASHERS
1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
THE ISLAND
1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① D' ANOTHERS
11:25 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25
② YEAR OF THE YAO
12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
③ CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30
④ ARAHAN
1:15 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:45
⑤ STEALTH
12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
FUNK FEST! PAROKYA NI EDGAR CONCERT
August 12, Friday, 7 pm
UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES
August 13, Saturday
MTV PILIPINAS 2005 AWARDS
August 25, Thursday 8 pm
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE
August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENTS	*Marks & Spencer at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall, Freeway at the Ground Floor of Ali Mall, and Oxygen at the 2nd Floor of Farmers Plaza*
EXHIBIT	*DMC Display ongoing until August 12 at the LRT Concourse Area on Level 2 of Gateway Mall*
PERFORMANCES	*Cool Live Jazz at the Gateway Courtyard from 9 to 11pm featuring Mishka Adams & The Blue Echoes on August 12 and Brass Munkeys on August 13*

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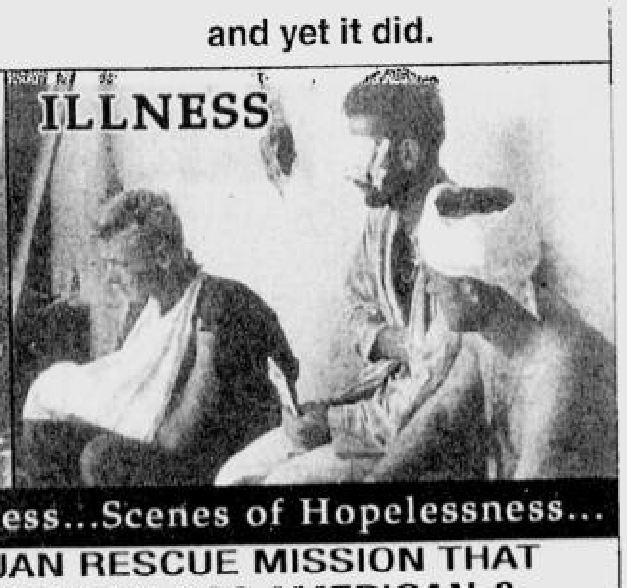
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

June, 1942:
Inside the Cabanatuan death camp, thousands of prisoners died of starvation, tropical illness and torture during the first month --- a pattern that continued over the next three years.

August, 1944:
The Japanese War Ministry issued a "Kill All Policy"--- a broad edict calling for the deaths of all remaining POWs under their authority.

January 30, 1945:
The rescue mission started. A mission that really couldn't succeed... and yet it did.

STARVATION



Scenes of Hopelessness...Scenes of Hopelessness...Scenes of Hopelessness...Scenes of Hopelessness...

THE GREAT RAID
THE DARING CABANATUAN RESCUE MISSION THAT WOULD LIBERATE MORE THAN 500 AMERICAN & FILIPINO POWs IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS.
OPENS AUGUST 10 --- OPENS AUGUST 10 --- OPENS AUGUST 10 --- OPENS AUGUST 10

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inal

-seeded Andy Rod- James Blake won al matches to ad- he Legg Mason Ten- ay.

ratdom Srichaphan, 7-6 (4), 6- 29th time in his career. Blake erdych of the Czech Republic, o reach his fourth career final. l means an American player is the first three US Open Series

final at Wimbledon on July 3, of the year and the 19th of his e title came in this event in

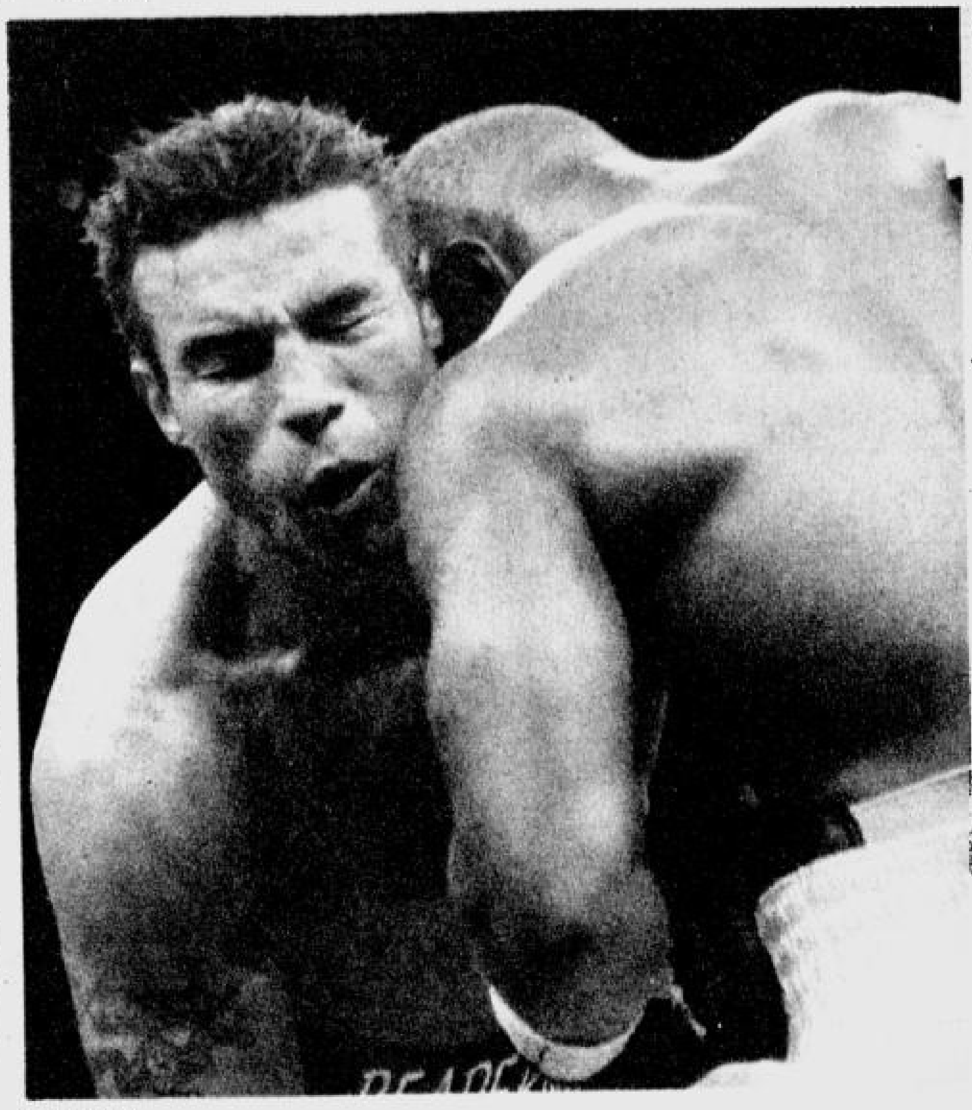
those are always interesting t faced Roddick in Cincinnati but tomorrow we're going to ther's brains in. On the court, nt to win the title."

lick slipped by in the fourth d broke serve in the first game wed his career mark against

tough on him," said Roddick,

the match at that point. Today playing well. I felt good, feel

94 percent of his first-serve -serve points and had 13 aces, phin the sixth game of the sec- *AP*



OUCH!
Robin Reid, of Bolton, England, left, grimaces after a hit from Jeff Lacy during the seventh round of the IBF/IBO Super Middleweight Championship fight Saturday night in Tampa, Florida. Reid's corner stopped the fight after the round, allowing Lacy to retain his title. AP

mire finds NBA home

—Damon -year con- Grizzlies, rt of the on club. spent the d and will the playoffs that might

ly getting mate goal for Mem-

onzi Wells Ostertag and Jason ing guard

Eddie Jones in earlier deals this week.

In 10 NBA seasons, Stoudamire has averaged 14.6 points, 6.6 assists and 3.7 rebounds in 729 games with Toronto and Portland. Last season he averaged 15.8 points and 5.7 assists and ranked fourth in NBA free throw accuracy.

"He will help take us to a different level," Grizzlies president Jerry West said.

That might not necessarily mean higher. While at Portland, Stoudamire was cited for smoking marijuana and arrested for trying to smuggle marijuana through an airport, drawing a fine from the Trail Blazers and rehabilitation. *AFP*

turn to Shuai Peng. AFP

ears Acura title

ry- Pierce game to China, 6- the title

nated from Peng few nt upset. e in the fi- in the sec- with a ten- yama was mi called it players. time two WTA Tier I

semifinal.

Sugiyama, who has won all three career matches against Morigami, qualified for her first title match since January 2004 when she won a hardcourt tournament in Australia. Coming into the event, Sugiyama had failed to reach the quarterfinals in 18 straight tournaments.

"It's been awhile," Sugiyama said. "I'm so happy with the way I played."

Sugiyama, who along with Pierce is 30, holds a 6-4 career lead over Pierce.

Pierce, playing the event for the ninth time, reached her second Acura final. She lost in straight sets to Lindsay Davenport in 1998. *AP*

ads own tourney

—Annika heir 5-un- lead Sat- C.

her debut 12-total at

of Norway

pursuit of month at rd at 214. the high- and Soren- ke back.

Sorenstam had four birdies—and two in the final two holes—on the back nine that has three of the course's five tough seaside holes. On the front nine, she had three birdies and her only two bogeys.

"To finish birdie-birdie on this course—two difficult holes—was promising for tomorrow. Compared to yesterday, this was quite an improvement," said Sorenstam, who had a 75 Friday in tougher weather.

"There's nothing better than playing in the last group on a Sunday and having a chance to win a golf tournament," said the world's top-ranked player. *AP*

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CINEMA 1 STEALTH PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
CINEMA 2 CHARLIE & the CHOCOLATE FACTORY - GP 10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CRASH R13 11:10, 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25
CINEMA 4 YEAR OF THE YAO - PG13 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00
CINEMA 5 CHARLIE & the CHOCOLATE FACTORY - GP 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
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September 2 & 3 MOJO FLY 8:30PM
Sept 15 22 23 24 JOAQUIN & FAITH CUNETA "ONE" 9PM
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SHANG CINEPLEX
① CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY MTRCB GP 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 LMF
③ WEDDING CRASHERS MTRCB PG-13 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15
② CRASH MTRCB R-13 1:30, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15 LMF
④ STEALTH MTRCB PG-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30 LMF
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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 CRASH 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 10:50 R-13
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 11:05, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00 GP
3 WEDDING CRASHERS 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 PG-13
4 STEALTH 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 PG-13

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
STEALTH PG13 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP 1:10, 3:50
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
WEDDING CRASHERS PG13 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30
CRASH R13 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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the podium 633-8976
1 CRASH 01:05FS/01:35MF 03:25LFS/04:00LMF/05:50END
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 12:50FS/1:20MF 03:15LFS/03:50LMF/5:45END
3 BEWITCHED ADVANCE SCREENING - 7:30PM/8:00PM
cebu (032) 231-3876
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:03:54/05:40/07:35 09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 THE ISLAND 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 09:25LFS/09:30LMF/11:45END
3 STEALTH 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 THE ISLAND
5 STEALTH
6 ARAHAN
7 WEDDING CRASHERS
8 CRASH
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE
11 YEAR OF THE YAO
12 THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 IF ONLY
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 THE ISLAND
5 ARAHAN
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 STEALTH
8 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
9 THE EYE INFINITY
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 YEAR OF THE YAO
12 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM NORTH EDSA
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 STEALTH
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 ARAHAN
7 THE ISLAND
8 ICE PRINCESS

SM CITY STA MESA
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 YEAR OF THE YAO
3 STEALTH
4 CRASH
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 THE EYE INFINITY
7 WEDDING CRASHERS
8 CINEMANILA
9 THE ISLAND
10 ARAHAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 CRASH
3 THE MACHINIST
4 STEALTH
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 WEDDING CRASHERS
7 ARAHAN
8 YEAR OF THE YAO
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY MANILA
1 CRASH
2 STEALTH
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 THE ISLAND
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 CINEMANILA
8 IF ONLY
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 ARAHAN
11 WEDDING CRASHERS
12 THE EYE INFINITY

SM SAN LAZARO
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 STEALTH
3 THE ISLAND
4 THE EYE INFINITY
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
D' ANOTHERS

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
D' ANOTHERS
STEALTH
THE ISLAND

SM CITY BICUTAN
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
D' ANOTHERS
THE ISLAND
STEALTH

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
STEALTH
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 THE ISLAND
IF ONLY
THE MACHINIST
6 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BACOOR
THE MACHINIST
D' ANOTHERS
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS
STEALTH
D' ANOTHERS
YEAR OF THE YAO
8 THE ISLAND

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE MACHINIST
D' ANOTHERS
IF ONLY
STEALTH

SM CITY LUCENA
NEW POLICE STORY
D' ANOTHERS
THE ISLAND
4 CREEP

SM CITY BAGUIO
SIN CITY
D' ANOTHERS
CAMPUS GHOST STORY
NEW POLICE STORY

SM CITY MARILAO
MONSTER-IN-LAW
D' ANOTHERS
THE MACHINIST
STEALTH

SM CITY BATANGAS
CAMPUS GHOST STORY
D' ANOTHERS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
NEW POLICE STORY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
MONSTER-IN-LAW
THE ISLAND
STEALTH
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
PREMONITION
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
D' ANOTHERS
8 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

SM CITY ILOILO
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 RESERVED
3 IF ONLY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND
7 RESERVED
8 CAMPUS GHOST STORY

SM CITY DAVAO
STEALTH
IF ONLY
D' ANOTHERS
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
THE ISLAND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
CREEP
D' ANOTHERS
NEW POLICE STORY
4 IF ONLY

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GALLERIA
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1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY • thx
1:30 4:10 6:50 9:30

2 D' ANOTHERS
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 CRASH
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

4 ARAHAN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

6 STEALTH
1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50

7 THE EYE INFINITY
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

8 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

9 YEAR OF THE YAO
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

10 THE ISLAND
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 THE EYE INFINITY
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 ARAHAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

4 WEDDING CRASHERS
10:30 12:45 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 STEALTH
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 D' ANOTHERS
10:15 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:50

7 CRASH
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 STEALTH
1:05 3:35 6:15 9:00

2 IF ONLY
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:35 9:00

3 D' ANOTHERS
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

4 THE ISLAND
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

5 THE EYE INFINITY
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 WEDDING CRASHERS
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

7 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

8 YEAR OF THE YAO
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

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1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 STEALTH
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 CRASH

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2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
3 EVIL DEAD
4 D' ANOTHERS

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2 THE ISLAND
3 IF ONLY
4 D' ANOTHERS

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2 EVIL DEAD
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 STEALTH

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2 STEALTH
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

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2 IF ONLY
3 SHANGHAI LILY
4 THE ISLAND
5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 STEALTH

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1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 THE ISLAND
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
5 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
6 NEW POLICE STORY

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1 THE ISLAND
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 IF ONLY
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
5 NEW POLICE STORY

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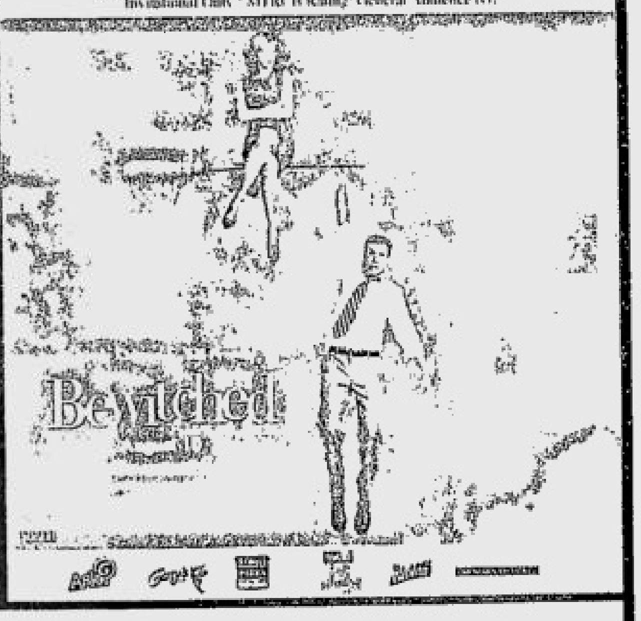

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JUVENILE COLTS RACE

Dixie the Younger shines brightest

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

STAR jockey Fernando Raquel Jr. knew how good Dixie the Younger's rivals are so he made one bold decision that worked wonders for his mount yesterday.

Raquel sent the long-striding galloper to the lead nearing the far turn and Dixie the Younger went on to steal the limelight from Manila's Smile at the start of the 2005 Juvenile Championship Series yesterday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

"*Alam ko magagaling ang mga kalaban lalo na si* Manila's Smile *kaya dinesisyunan ko na* one-on-one *na lang kami at nakaraos naman* (Our rivals are also good so I decided to do it one-on-one against Manila's Smile and luckily we made it)," said Raquel after Dixie the Younger prevailed in the Colts Stakes by 1 and 1/2 lengths.

Under the whip

The sudden burst by Dixie the Younger caught the Jeffrey Ladiana-handled Manila's Smile off-guard and Raquel made sure there wouldn't be any more trademark comeback win for the latter as he applied the whip repeatedly to keep the second favorite going down the stretch.

Dixie the Younger, owned by former racing commissioner Francis Trillana Jr. and his son Michael, pocketed P600,000 and snapped Manila's Smile's four-race victory run.

"We're very happy. We'll try to keep him healthy and hopefully, have him listed again in the second leg," said Michael Trillana of the Khozaam-Dixie Cup progeny raised and honed at the Trillanas' Ranchito San Gabriel in Lipa City, Batangas like their champion horse Red Star Rising.

Golden Number wound up third, a length behind Manila's Smile, then came Key Element, Million Dollar and Don Exequiel.

"Raquel made a good decision and we salute him for that brilliant ride," said Francis Trillana, lauding the jockey who was adjudged as winningest for the month of July.

Fast time

Despite the muddy 1,400-meter route, Dixie the Younger clocked a fast 1 minute 27 seconds flat (12.5-23.5-25-26).

Overshadowed by Dixie the Younger's triumph was Pechanga's earlier conquest of the Fillies Stakes.

Living up to expectations, the chestnut daughter of Heza Gone West out of Flying Angel dumped her five rivals, ruling the race also disputed over 1,400 meters by six lengths under Antonio Alcasid Jr.

Pechanga timed 1:28 flat (12.5-24-24.5-27).

Straight Free finished second after nosing out Jet Sutter. Kat's Magic arrived fourth followed by Erica's Talent and Kaligatan.

Philippine Racing Commissioners Marlon Cunanan, Eduardo Domingo Jr., Eddie Jose and Roger Tandiama awarded the trophies for the winning connections.

Makati derby today; PCAP elections up

WITH the country's most prominent breeders and cockers making up the tough cast, the 18th Pahabol Sa Taglugon 4-Cock Derby is expected to lure thousands of cockfight aficionados today to the Makati Coliseum.

The first of 92 fights starts at 4 p.m.

SALUD

Billed as the last big derby of the 2005 cock season and hosted by Bobbit Ples, the event will feature derby standouts such as former Sen. Ramon Revilla, Gov. Ito Yñares, Jun Topacio, Richard Bates, Patrick Antonio, Jet Fernando, Dicky Lim, Boy de Roca, Rene Medina, Rod Barro, Louie Cua, Polding Correa, Tony Tan, engineer Tony Marfori, William Go, Danilo Hinlo, Rep. Jerome Paras and Rep. Manny Andaya, Jess Bautista and Vic Sison of Pangasinan, Mayor Jersy Palmares, Efren Canlas, Bobby Doromal, Eric dela Rosa, Jake Macasaet, Cris Milla, Mayor Atienza, Sam Mendoza, Joseph Ferrer, Rey Briones, Joel Chavez and Erwin Diamante.

For inquiries on the derby, call Makati Coliseum at 896-3545, 895-6475 or 895-6453. The venue is located at 31 Mascardo St., Barangay Singkamas, Makati City.

Meanwhile, the newly-organized Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) will hold its election of officers at 12 noon today, according to promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of Winning Time Jobo Sports and Gaming Corp.

The PCAP is based at the Makati Coliseum.

Aguilar heads RP bid in Indon moto

THE QUEST for Asian Motocross supremacy reaches fever-pitch anew when the 2005 FIM Asian Motocross Championships resumes on Aug. 13 and 14 in Solo, Indonesia.

Glenn Aguilar and Jovy Saulog will spearhead the Philippines' quest anew in the premier Motocross Masters class.

Aguilar, in particular, will have his hands full against a pack of title-hungry riders out to topple him from the overall lead which he seized in the third leg of the series in Macau last June.

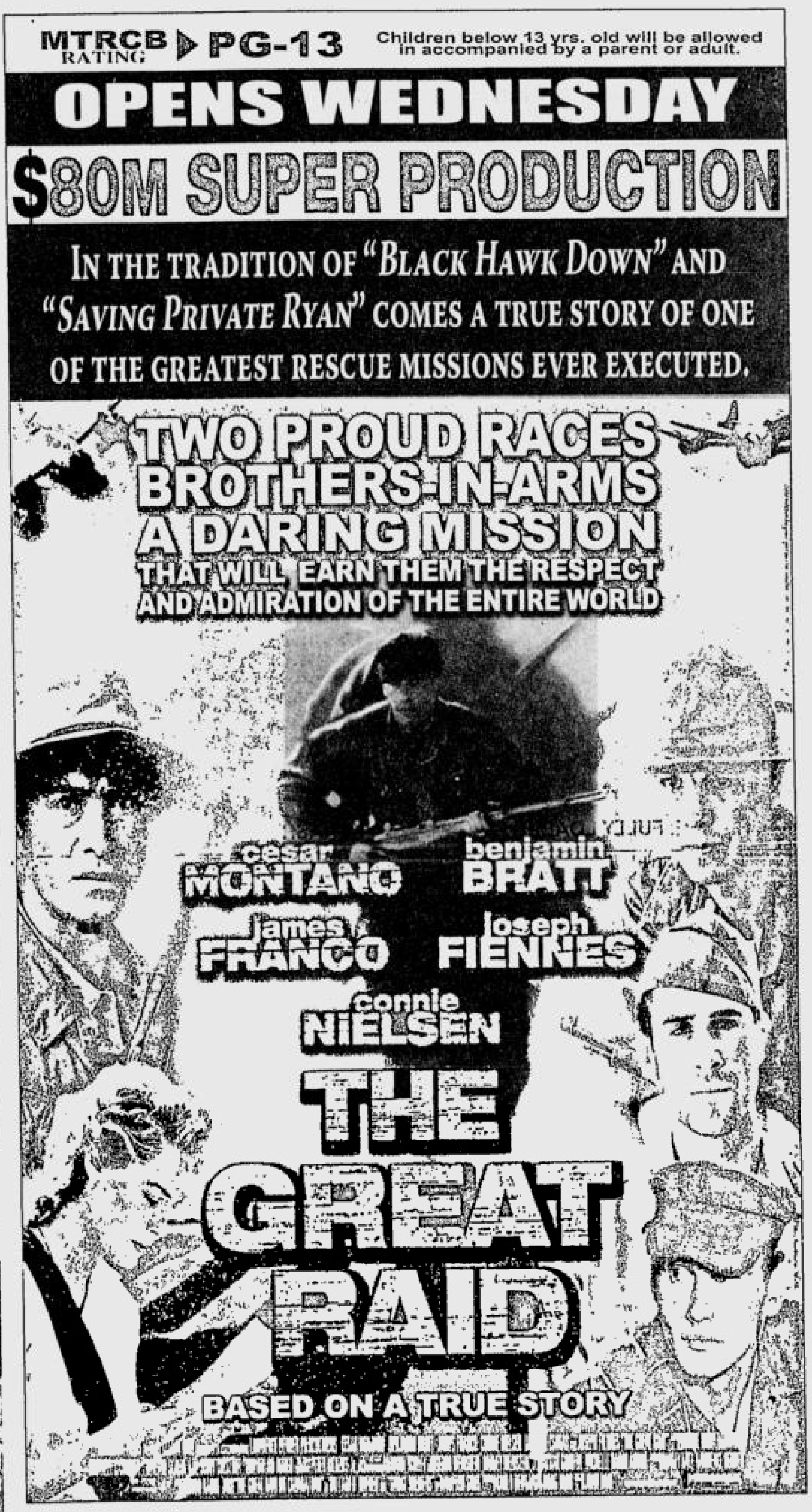
The country's top Revtex rider, who wound up second twice to Australian Christian Horwood in the Guam and Puerto Princesa rounds, finally found his bearings in the former Portuguese enclave. Aguilar finished third and first in the two motos to overtake the indisposed Horwood in the 125cc standings.

Kenneth San Andres, the young sensation from Valenzuela City, will also see action in the races. He is running seventh overall.

Aguilar, Saulog and San Andres also head the Philippines' bid in the Coupes des Nations Asiatique, the silver sterling trophy awarded to the country with the most prolific riders at the end of the series. The Philippines currently leads the standings.

Cebu's Jan Adlawan carries RP hopes in the 85cc class for riders 12 to 15 years old, while Jean Erick Mitra, the winner in Macau of the 50cc class, tests the field in the 65cc bracket. Leo Hermosa will race in the 50cc (9-and-below) class.

The team will be accompanied by Namssa general manager and FIM UAM Asian Motocross Commission president Macky Carapiet.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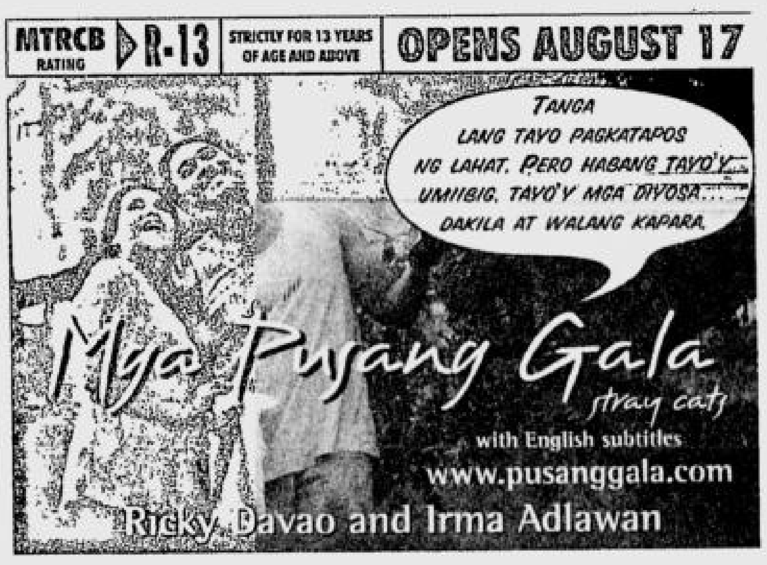
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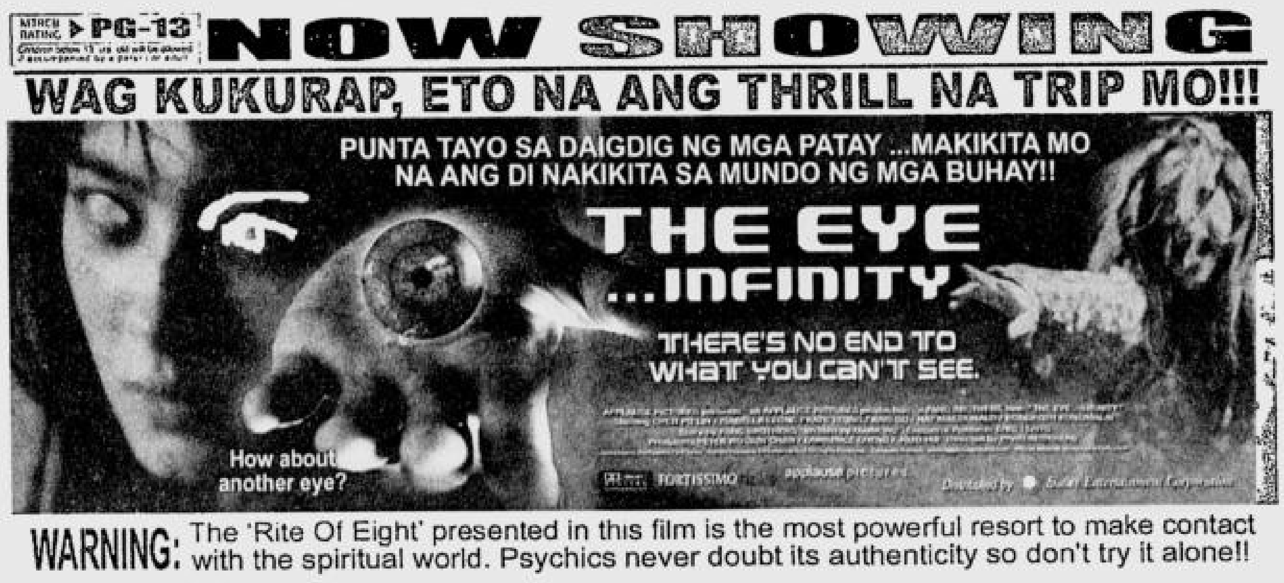
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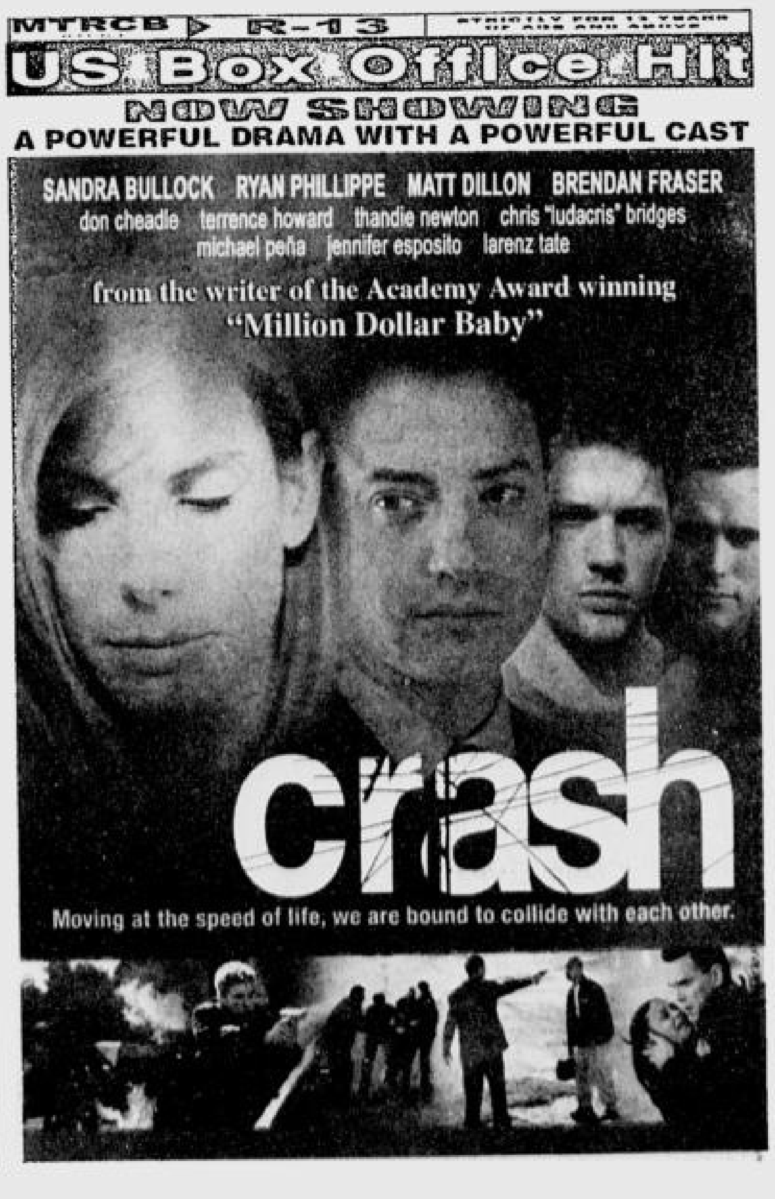
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Moving at the speed of life, we are bound to collide with each other.

Puyat steps down as Marho head

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WITHOUT much fanfare, sportsman-businessman Aristeo "Putch" Puyat recently stepped down as president of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners.

"It's time for the younger ones to take over," said Puyat, a leading horse owner and breeder, who headed the Marho for 15 years (seven straight from 1986 to 1992 and eight from 1996 to 2005). "I have served long enough."

Mandaluyong Rep. Benhur Abalos Jr., another noted horse owner, is now the president of Marho.

One of the oldest and most prestigious horse racing organizations in the country today, Marho was founded on March 22, 1974, by individuals of varied business interests but with a common love for the "king of sports." The founding fathers included former ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, big boss of giant beer and food conglomerate San Miguel Corp.; former Rizal Gov. Isidro Rodriguez, Antonio Araneta, former racing commissioner Asterio Favis, Elias Coscoluela, Angel Castaño, Eric Moreno, Emilio Espinosa, former Caloocan City Mayor Macario Asistio Sr., Jose Revilla, former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, who is now the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee; Constante Rubio, Conrado Trinidad and Samuel "Sammy" Sharuff.

In Nov. 16, 1996, Puyat (in tandem with Marho chair Sandy Javier of Andok's fame) launched the star-studded Breeders' Cup at the Santa Ana Park. Long shots Alynative and El Señor won the inaugural races, ruling the Distaff Mile and the Colt Mile, respectively, with each pocketing P1 million in prize money.

More recently, super horse Wind Blown, now retired to stud at the Herma Farms and Stud in Lipa City, scored an incredible hat trick, winning the Breeders' Cup Classic in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Wind Blown is owned by Hermie Esguerra, a man known for his zeal, grit and heart for sports.

Patterned after the famous Breeders' Cup of the United States, the Philippine version has become the richest and most widely followed racing event. Aside from the patronage of the racing public, another reason that led to its tremendous success was the support provided by the private sector, notably San Miguel Beer, its chief backer the last seven years.

"The long-running San Miguel Beer-Marho partnership is like an ideal marriage, solid as rock and based on mutual respect and sincerity," Puyat once said in an interview. "It is an excellent example of the private sector contributing to the development of Philippine sports in general and horse racing in particular."

Puyat is one of a kind. He is much admired not only because of his other contributions to sports such as bowling (where he, together with elder brother Popit, supported four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno) and billiards where he bankrolled the successful international campaigns of Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan. Puyat was tapped by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to serve as billiards' "godfather" in this year's SEA Games.

* * *

'FOUL PLAY' IN THE PBA? The PBA will always be with us, but the recent decision of Shell to trade some of its key players even before it formally filed a leave of absence did not sit well with some team owners and longtime fans who were expecting fairness from the league.

Said Red Bull team manager Tony Chua: "I know that Shell has all the right to do what it wants to do with its players, but for the sake of the league, I think that Shell should have opened the players to all (PBA members) and let the teams make a bid. That, I am convinced, will make the league more balanced."

Shell's decision to trade its players caught the other teams, including Red Bull, flat-footed, benefiting only Alaska (which acquired 2005 Rookie of the Year Rich Alvarez and Tony de la Cruz), Coca-Cola (which got Billy Mamaril) and FedEx (which got sweet-shooting Ronald Tubid in exchange for Jerry Codiñera).

"Alvarez and De la Cruz would have been a welcome addition to our team," said Chua. "*Sayang.*"

Alvarez had earlier said he would be happy to join Red Bull and be reunited with his friend and former Ateneo teammate Rico Villanueva, who is now a Barako star. Alvarez and Villanueva led Ateneo to victory over bitter rival La Salle in the 2002 UAAP championship.

WINNERS Reynaldo de los Reyes and Liza Yambao (third and fourth from left) are flanked by (from left) Milo marketing, promotions and events officer Robby Afzelius, Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong, AVP and Milo brand manager Michelle Calo, and DepEd physical education and special events chief Noemi Bellosillo.

Reyes, Yambao top Milo NCR qualifier

VETERANS Reynaldo de los Reyes and former overall champion Liza Yambao ruled the National Capital Region elimination leg of the 29th National Milo Marathon that wound up at the Quirino Grandstand yesterday.

De los Reyes, a regular in the Milo foot race since 1997 and second to Roy Vence in the National Finals last year, completed the 42.195-km course in two hours, 29 minutes and 39 seconds.

De los Reyes and Rolando Piamonte took turns at the lead before the winner broke away for good with some 8 km left in the race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile and Powerbar.

Piamonte placed second in 2:32:45 while former leg winner Mamerto Corpuz Jr. settled for third in 2:33:21.

Yambao, who dominated the 2003 Milo Marathon, led all the way in capturing the women's title in 3:14:17.

Regular campaigners Liza Delfin (3:19:29) and Mila Paje (3:25:52) placed second and third, respectively.

The 42K champions pocketed P30,000 each. The second placers took home P20,000 and third placers P10,000 each.

Of the 500 runners in the elimination run, only 225 met the qualifying time of four hours in the men's and four hours and 30 minutes in the women's.

The first ever Milo Marathon champion, Numeriano Titong, who is now 59, finished yesterday's 42K race in 4:24:43.

Alley Quisay, meanwhile, topped the men's 10K race in 32:33. He was followed by former Milo champion and national team member Allan Ballester (33:16) and Ben Alejandro (34:02).

Ruling the distaff side was Gloria Diaz (41:58). Librada Tamson (43:13) and Mary Grace Cruz (44:05) placed second and third, respectively.

Rio dela Cruz (17:04) and Nhe-An Barcena (20:15) topped the 5K fun run.

The Kiddies 3K age-group winners were Angelo Villarojo and Freshani Kim Calleja (6-9 years old) and Bernard Adano and Hazel Orivida (10-12).

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Forum tackles caging, football issues

ISSUES in basketball and football as well as the details about the coming stint of Team Manila in the Big League Softball World Series headline tomorrow's discussions in the PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. Fr. Vic Calvo of Letran and Bernie Atienza of College of St. Benilde, chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the NCAA management committee, talk about alleged game-fixing hounding the league, while RP women's football team managers Cathy Rivilla and Ernie Tierras tackle the training woes of the booters. Also invited in the session aired live over dzSR Sports Radio and sponsored by Red Bull, Circure, Supermax, Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza are PBA commissioner Noli Eala and the World Series-bound Manila IX headed by Rep. Miles Roces, Manila Sports Council chief Ali Atienza and coach Boy Codiñera.

SSCR-C cagers post third win over Mediatrix

SAN SEBASTIAN College Recoletos-Cavite whipped playing team manager Mike Dullas' Mediatrix, 78-69, Saturday to improve their record to 3-1 in the 9th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the Washington gym in Makati City.

Forward Gleen Bolocon scattered 23 points to pace the Stags, who made it three in a row after dropping their initial match in the tournament supported by San Miguel, Air21, Baker's Fair, Funtastic KTV, Gen. Milling Corp., Spring Cooking Oil and Prime Channel.

Pamplona Plantation finally broke into the win column by subduing team manager Vicky Chan's MLQ University Stallions, 83-76, in the other game.

The scores:

First Game

SSCR-CAVITE 78—Bolocon 23, Yee 19, Villaber 10, Cenita 7, Villareal 7, Lim 7, Magdadaro 4, Mendez 1, Ba-to 0, Cambarihan 0.

MEDIATRIX 69—Zagala 17, Reyes 13, Diaz 13, Buenaventura 8, Araman 5, Songco 5, Robillos 4, De Guia 2.

Quarters: 27-21, 49-36, 62-53, 78-69

Second Game

PAMPLONA 83—Sario 17, Pacheco 17, Naron 14, Balingit 9, Eman 8, Rebuya 7, Baluyot 5, Mendoza 3, Regalado 2, Realubit 1, Melencio 0.

MLQU 76—Manalansan 19, Tadlas 11, Vitug 10, Lustistica 9, ROsario 8, Lariosa 6, Crisostomo 4, Siglon 2, Mendoza 1.

Quarters: 28-20, 51-40, 66-57, 83-76.

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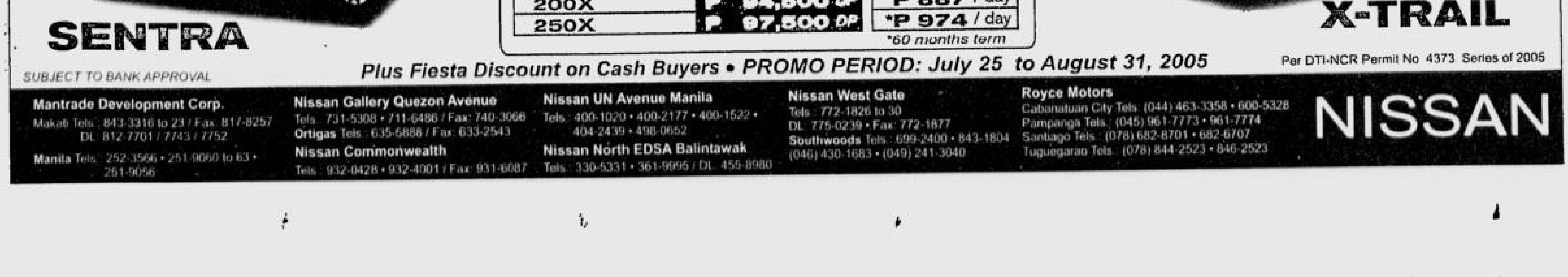

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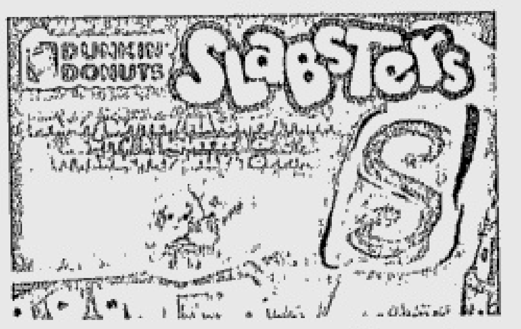
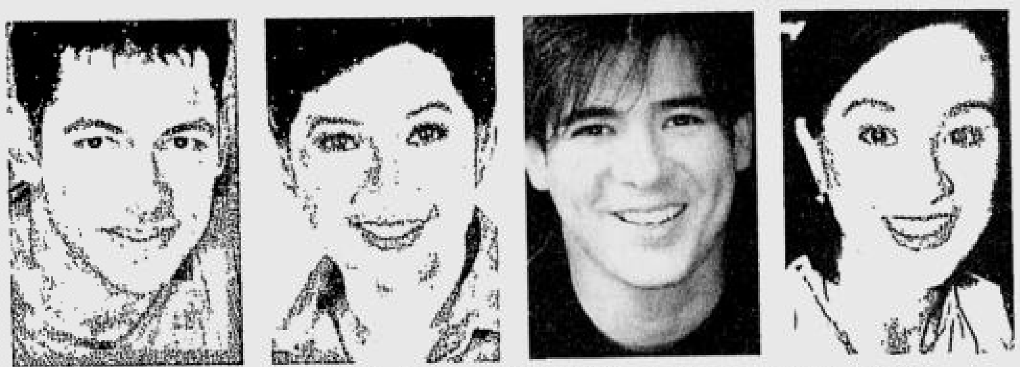

DUNKIN' DONUTS Slabsters

TV networks join forces for RP kids

ALL TOGETHER. From left, Mari Kaimo, Emily Abrera, Boots Anson Roa and Edgardo Roces

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN


MESSAGES from Gary, Bernadette, Aga and Mikee: "Exercise" and "Play outdoors."

By Marinel R. Cruz

WARRING channels GMA 7 and ABS-CBN seemed to declare a temporary ceasefire and, along with other TV networks, joined forces in supporting the Southeast Asian Foundation of Children's Television (SEAFCTV) in its effort to remind parents that they should keep an eye on what kids are watching on TV.

"This is a very brave move on the part of the networks," Emily Abrera, a member of the SEAFCTV board of trustees, told a group of entertainment writers over lunch on Thursday. "This is the first time we will see TV networks tell parents not to let their kids watch too much TV."

The lunch was to launch a series of TV plugs to this effect, featuring show biz celebrities. The first batch has Aga Muhlach, Gary Valenciano, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Julius and Tin-Tin Bersola, Bernadette Sembrano, Ryan Agoncillo, Mari Kaimo and Boots Anson Roa.

Starting this month, the commercials will be aired on Channels 2 and 7, as well as NBN 4, ABC 5, RPN 9, Zoe 11, IBC 13, Studio 23, Net 25 and TV 29.

"I think this tells us that television is maturing and is beginning to recognize its responsibility toward viewers," said Abrera, who is also the newest member of ABS-CBN's board of directors and chair emeritus of McCann-Erickson, the country's largest advertising agency. "Not all programs are suitable for child viewing. A parent is needed... so that kids understand what they hear and see on television."

Anson Roa, grandmother of eight, said she believed media to be the "most powerful and most expeditious tool in molding and shaping the personalities of children."

But, she said, "It's us who control the TV dials."

"I'm happy and proud to be part of a project that aims to inculcate in parents' minds that it is not the responsibility of media organizations or the networks alone to [decide] what children should watch," said Kaimo. "Parents should take a pro-active role in the education of the young."

For several years now, SEAFCTV has been coming up with a list of what it considers "family-friendly" TV programs, to which it annually lends its Anak TV Seal.

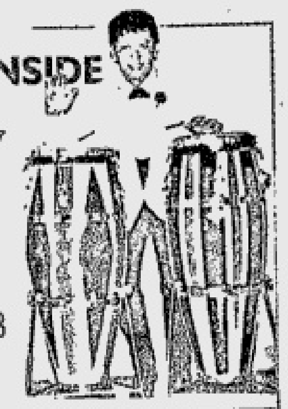
These are shows that, the foundation believes, "represent wholesomeness, family friendliness and child sensitiveness," according to SEAFCTV secretary general Mag Cruz Hatol.

A board of jurors comprised of parents, educators, business, government and media people, the religious sector and NGOs decide which programs get the seal.

"It takes us close to a year to come up with the list," said foundation president Edgardo Roces. "We intend to meet with different broadsheets that publish TV guides and request that they mark Anak TV winners."

For the year 2004, 55 programs got the seal of approval. RPN 9 and Studio 23 were topnotchers, with 10 each.

WHAT'S INSIDE



YESTERDAY Manding Claro, music man /A2-3

Irma Adlawan, 'queen' of the indies /A2-4

Bryan Revilla's drug test /A2-4

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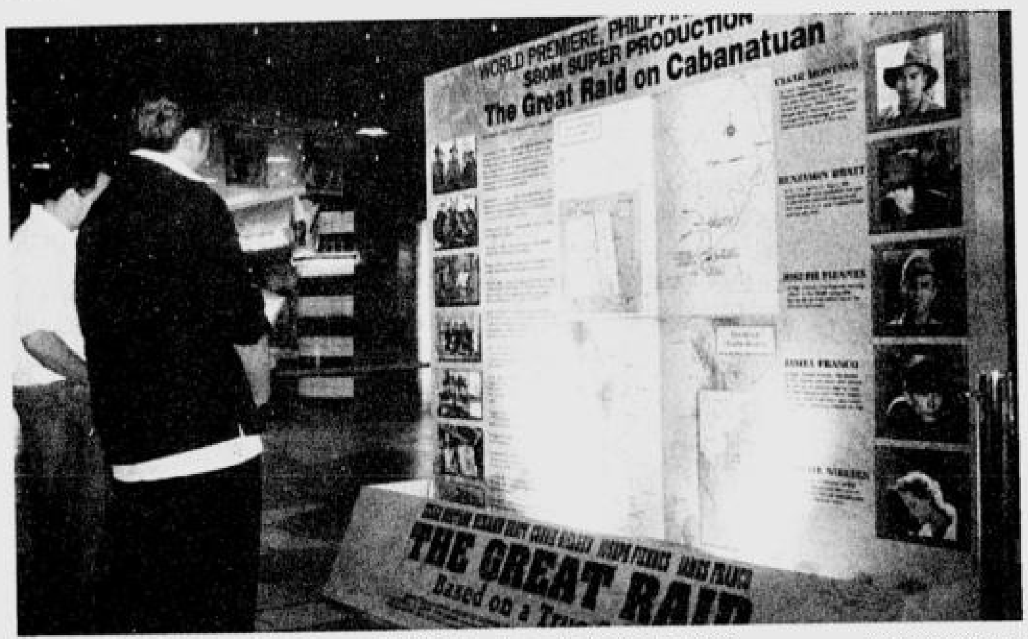

MONTANO topbills "The Great Raid" in local movie house posters.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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Cesar's own 'Great' tales

By Nini Valera

CESAR Montano had to fight for the right of Filipino World War II guerrillas to wear dog tags—in "The Great Raid."

The actor made his stand during the boot camp held before filming, in Brisbane, Australia. Cesar and 10 other Filipino actors play Filipino guerrillas in the war movie produced by Miramax and directed by John Dahl.

"During the boot camp, I learned that everybody else was getting dog tags," said Cesar during the movie's press conference last Friday.

"There were about 80 men playing American soldiers. I knew that historically, Filipino guerrillas didn't wear dog tags, but I felt we should be wearing them, too."

Dog tags were important in identifying the bodies of soldiers killed during the war. But to the Filipino actors, they represented the pride and honor of being participants in recreating a historic moment on film. The movie is about the rescue of American prisoners during World War II by American soldiers assisted by Filipino resistance fighters led by Capt. Juan Pajota, played by Cesar.

Cesar narrated: "I told our trainer that Filipino guerrillas fought in the same spirit, for the same cause, as American soldiers. He thought for a while, and said, 'I wish I could speak that way. I tell you now, you'll also be given dog tags.' All of us Filipinos cheered."

The actor displayed for the news cameras the dog tags that bore his character's name.

"These and my boot camp certificate are precious to me," he said. "Training was rigorous. I lost about 10 pounds."

Food was rationed and sleep was a luxury as enemy soldiers "invaded" the camp unannounced at night and engaged them in fire fights using blanks, said Cesar.

"We only had drinking water, none for baths," he said. "Imagine how we smelled after two weeks."

But on Friday, Cesar smelled only of success. The first major Filipino actor to cross over to Hollywood, Cesar still has a two-picture contract with Miramax.

"I [just] have to hire a good agent [to push it]," he said.

The award-winning actor and director appears in about 45 percent of the movie, which stars Benjamin Bratt, James Franco, and Joseph Fiennes. In the movie posters distributed locally, his name is placed above all three.

"I'm friends with Benjamin," Cesar said. "He calls me brown brother because he's a Peruvian born and raised in the US. He also calls me the Tom Cruise of the Philippines."

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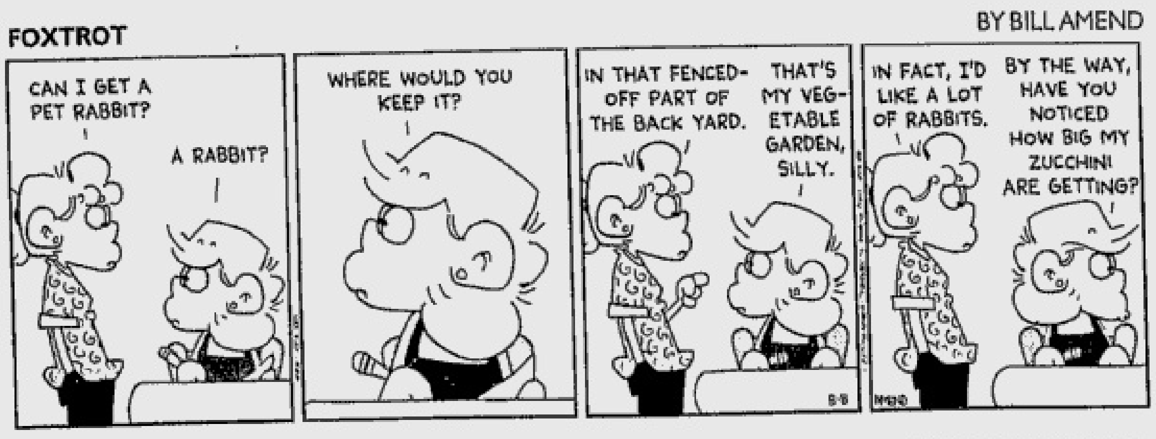
MOMENT...
NAKU MARAMI PA AKONG DAPAT GAWIN NA PAPERWORK!
HI JAMES! PUPUNTA KAMI SA PANTRY PARA MAG BREAK. GUSTO MONG SUMAMA?
SURE BABE!
AAAAHH!!!
ANO KAYA PROBLEMA NINY GUWAPING NAMAN AKO AH!
OK! IN YOUR DREAMS!
'YAN MAHIRAP TALAGA PAG DI KA NAG-SOUPY SNAX BREAK!
SOUPY SNAX!
MAG 7 MUNA

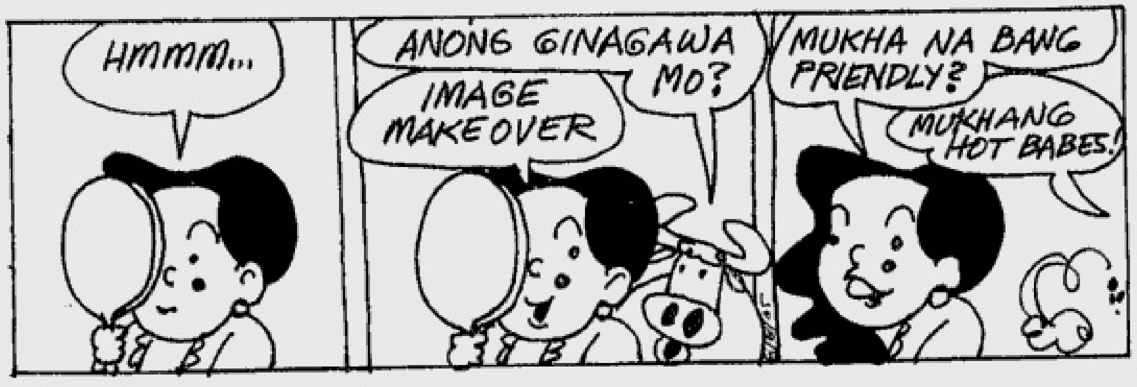
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


CAN I GET A PET RABBIT?
A RABBIT?
WHERE WOULD YOU KEEP IT?
IN THAT FENCED-OFF PART OF THE BACK YARD.
THAT'S MY VEGETABLE GARDEN, SILLY.
IN FACT, I'D LIKE A LOT OF RABBITS.
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW BIG MY ZUCCHINI ARE GETTING?
8-8

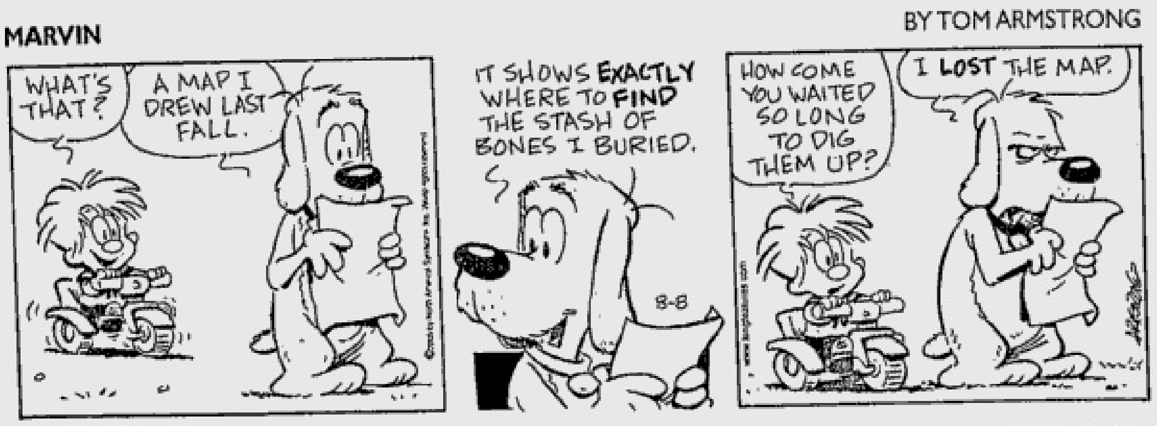
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HMMM...
ANONG GINAGAWA MO?
IMAGE MAKEOVER
MUKHA NA BANG FRIENDLY?
MUKHANG HOT BABES!

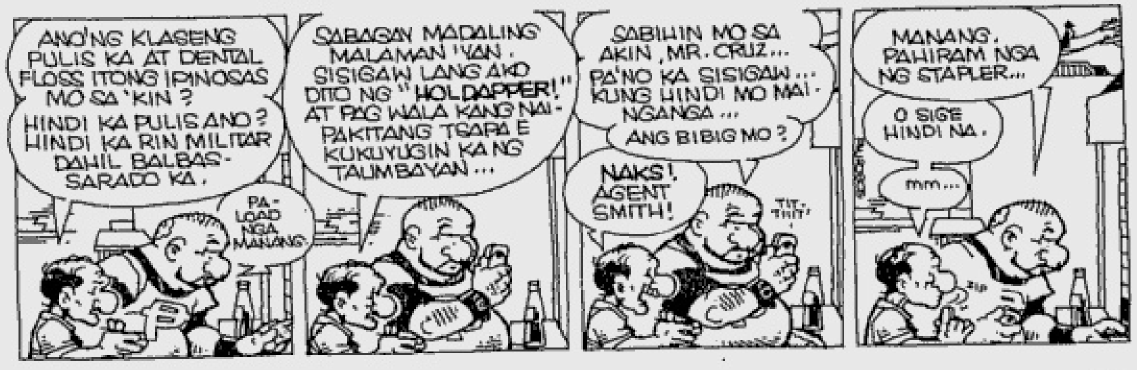
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHAT'S THAT?
A MAP I DREW LAST FALL.
IT SHOWS EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND THE STASH OF BONES I BURIED.
8-8
HOW COME YOU WAITED SO LONG TO DIG THEM UP?
I LOST THE MAP.

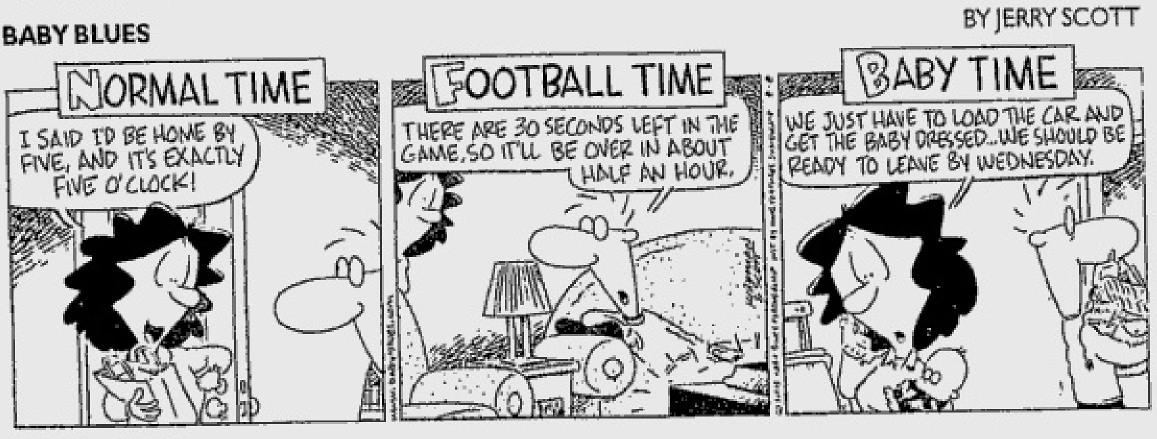
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO'NG KLASENG PULIS KA AT DENTAL FLOSS ITONG IPINOSAS MO SA 'KIN?
HINDI KA PULIS ANO? HINDI KA RIN MILITAR DAHIL BALBAS-SARADO KA.
PA-LOAD NGA MANANG
SABAGAN MADALING MALAMAN 'YAN. SISIGAW LANG AKO DITO NG "HOLDAPPER!" AT PAG WALA KANG NAIPAKITANG TSAPA E KUKUYUGIN KA NG TAUMBAYAN...
SABIHIN MO SA AKIN, MR. CRUZ... PA'NO KA SISIGAW... KUNG HINDI MO MAINGANGA...
ANG BIBIG MO?
NAKS! AGENT SMITH!
TIT-THIT!
MANANG, PAHIRAM NGA NG STAPLER...
O SIGE HINDI NA.
mm...

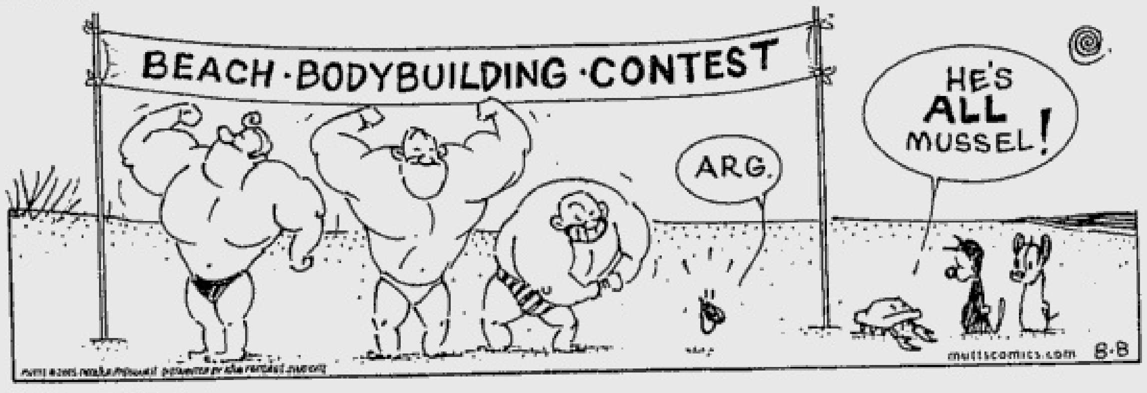
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


NORMAL TIME
I SAID I'D BE HOME BY FIVE, AND IT'S EXACTLY FIVE O'CLOCK!
FOOTBALL TIME
THERE ARE 30 SECONDS LEFT IN THE GAME, SO IT'LL BE OVER IN ABOUT HALF AN HOUR.
BABY TIME
WE JUST HAVE TO LOAD THE CAR AND GET THE BABY DRESSED... WE SHOULD BE READY TO LEAVE BY WEDNESDAY.

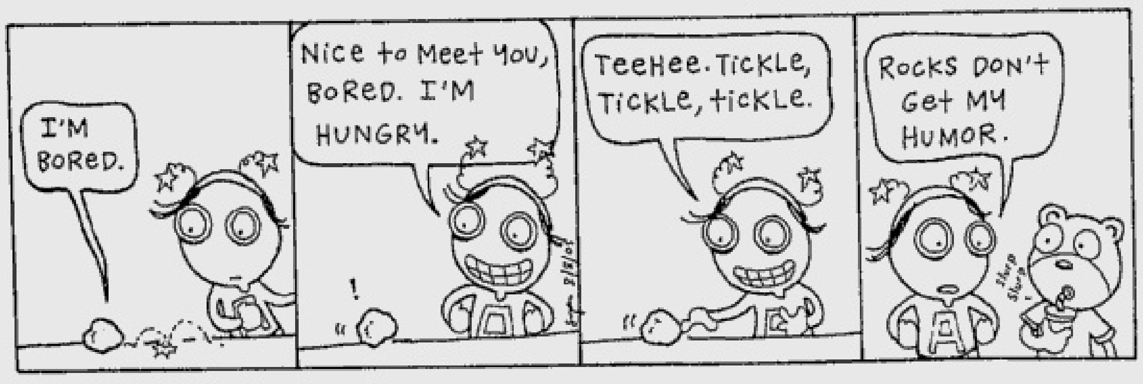
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BEACH · BODYBUILDING · CONTEST
ARG.
HE'S ALL MUSSEL!
muttscomics.com 8-8

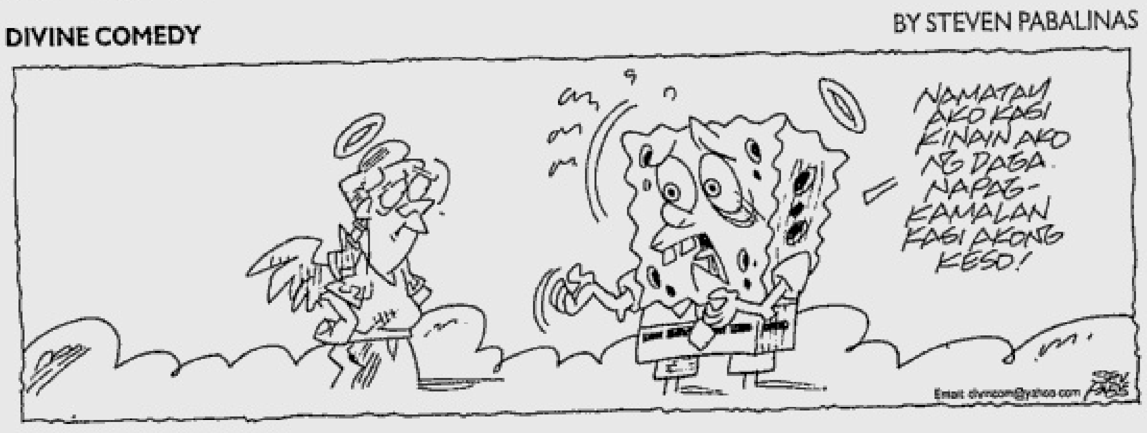
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M BORED.
NICE TO MEET YOU, BORED. I'M HUNGRY.
!
TEEHEE. TICKLE, TICKLE, TICKLE.
ROCKS DON'T GET MY HUMOR.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NAMATAY AKO KASI KINAIN AKO NG DAGA. NAPAGKAMALAN KASI AKONG KESO!
Email: divncom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're dramatic and enthusiastic. Sometimes you're extravagant in the eyes of others (not yours). You have many talents—both corporate and artistic. You're very determined, and you need a lot of freedom in your relationships. You have impeccable taste. The year ahead is social and most beneficial for relationships. **Birthdate of:** Roger Federer, tennis player; Dustin Hoffman, actor; Keith Carradine, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Romantic situations are very confusing today. (You might be expecting more than is realistic. Don't jump to conclusions.) On the other hand, deception is possible! (Beware.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be extra-clear in all your communications with family members today. Discussions with parents especially can suffer from misunderstandings. Listen carefully; speak carefully!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't worry if you find yourself wasting time daydreaming today. You just can't resist it. We all need to daydream now and then. Consider it "cooking" time.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be careful with all financial matters today. You could lose money. You might get or give the wrong change during purchases. Someone might even steal from you today (unlikely, but possible).

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Misunderstandings and confusion with partners and close friends are likely today. Perhaps you expect too much of someone? This could be why you're disappointed in others. Be tolerant. (We are all frail mortals.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Deception and secrets are likely today. Everything is underhanded. Beware sleight-of-hand matters and beneath-the-counter activities. Be completely above board yourself! (What goes around, comes around.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't worry if your encounter with someone is demoralizing or confusing. You don't want to confront people today. Furthermore, you might even feel victimized by someone or something. Stay uninvolved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a terrible day to talk to bosses, authority figures and parents about important matters. Confusion is rampant! Conversations are like two ships passing in the night. Wait until tomorrow.

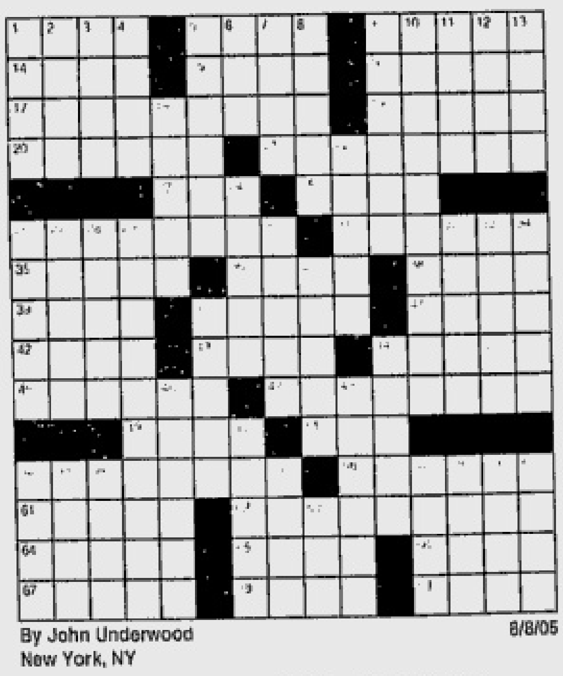
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might be confused by something in the media or something you learn at school today. However, you might not have a clear picture yet. Perhaps you don't have all the facts?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a poor day to decide how to share things or divide responsibilities. You might feel hard done by because you can't stick up for your rights.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't jump to conclusions if you think someone has deceived you today. Although it's possible, it's also possible you don't have all the facts! All conversations today are subject to confusion and misunderstandings.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Co-workers might be confusing today. If you think someone is withholding information from you, that is probably the case. Don't hesitate to defend your rights.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Underwood
New York, NY

8/8/05

ACROSS
1 __ Raton, FL
5 Critic Rex
9 Boot out
14 Sister of Osiris
15 Kett of old comics
16 Boom box
17 Twenty-one
19 Vinegary. pref.
20 Caterwaul
21 Literary language of India
23 Soft metal
25 One with regrets
26 Best Picture of 1963
31 Teheran populace
35 Opera songs
36 Beyond
38 Too thin
39 Prez's military title
40 Car lifts
41 Roughage stuff
42 Catchy refrain
43 Covering grades K-12
44 Softly, in music
45 Displayed
47 Played Sherlock Holmes
49 Burrows and Fortas
51 Long. counterpart
52 Vibrating musical effects
56 Small crowns
61 Dish stewed in wine
62 United Kingdom flag
64 Leg joints
65 Takei's "Star Trek" role
66 Soot-covered
67 Beginning
68 Cover for
69 Syngman of Korea

DOWN
1 Tender lettuce
2 Munch Museum city
3 Pisa greeting
4 Writer Sholem
5 Come back to
6 Greek letter
7 List-ending abbrs.
8 Capital of Senegal
9 Art rubber
10 Long-eared hare
11 Fulda tributary
12 Bank starter?
13 Horn honk
18 Japanese zithers
22 Parisian nights
24 Katmandu's land
26 Speed: pref.
27 Sky hunter
28 King of Crete
29 Street drill
30 Goldman's Wall Street partner
32 Singer Jones
33 Senseless
34 Ecclesiastical council
37 Expertise
40 Gem
44 Yeltsin's successor
46 One woodwind player
48 Dine al fresco?
50 "Semper Fidelis" composer
52 Clicking sounds
53 Talk wildly
54 Zeno of __
55 Cold-shoulder
57 Open a crack
58 Foolhardy
59 Dull throb
60 Scottish island
63 __-de-France

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	L	E	M	A	T	I	S	■	C	H	U	T	E	S
L	A	V	A	L	A	V	A	■	H	A	V	A	N	A
O	V	E	R	L	A	I	N	■	A	L	E	R	T	S
B	E	R	G	■	L	E	G	I	S	L	A	T	E	S
B	R	E	A	D	■	D	O	N	T	S	■	A	N	I
E	N	T	R	A	P	■	U	T	E	■	A	N	T	E
R	E	T	I	N	A	■	T	E	N	■	U	S	E	R
■	■	■	T	A	S	K	■	R	I	F	T	■	■	■
H	A	R	A	■	T	A	I	■	N	O	O	S	E	D
A	G	E	S	■	M	O	N	■	G	A	M	E	L	Y
R	A	G	■	P	A	N	D	A	■	L	O	R	E	N
P	I	A	N	I	S	S	I	M	O	■	B	E	M	A
I	N	T	E	N	T	■	T	U	R	B	I	N	E	S
E	S	T	A	T	E	■	E	S	C	U	L	E	N	T
S	T	A	T	O	R	■	D	E	S	S	E	R	T	S

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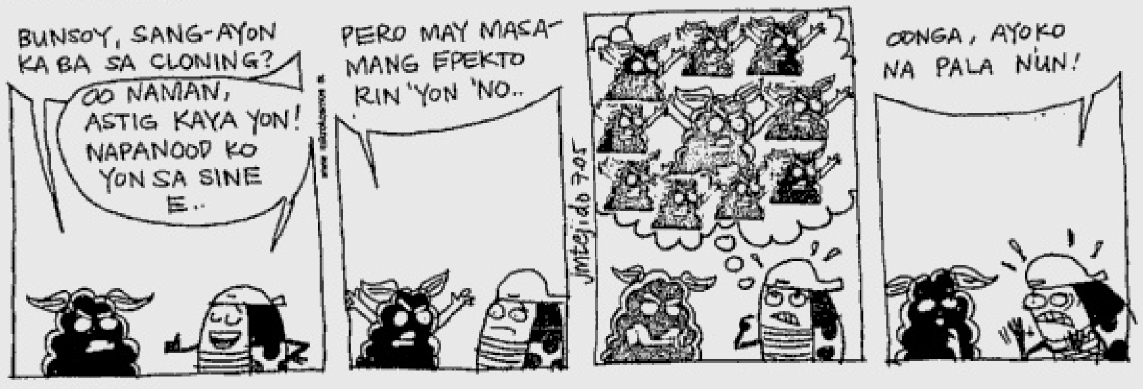
8/6/05

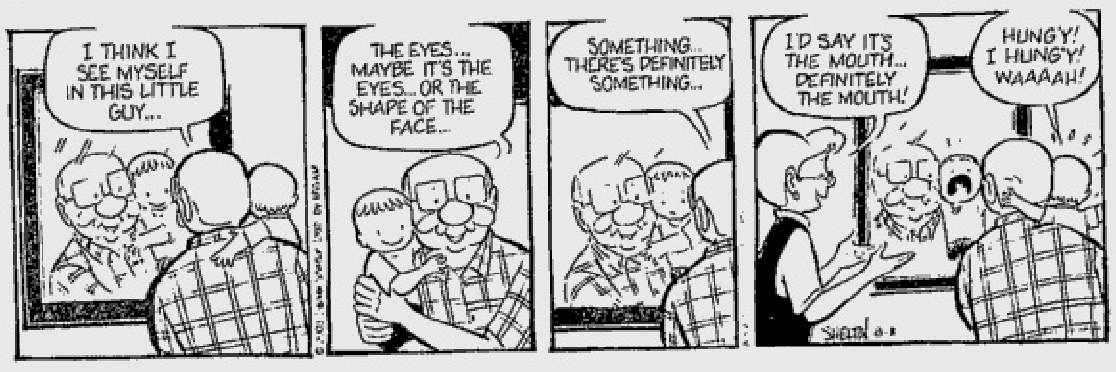
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, SANG-AYON KA BA SA CLONING?
OO NAMAN, ASTIG KAYA YON! NAPANOOD KO YON SA SINE E..
PERO MAY MASAMANG EPEKTO RIN 'YON 'NO..
jmtejido 7.05
OONGA, AYOKO NA PALA NUN!

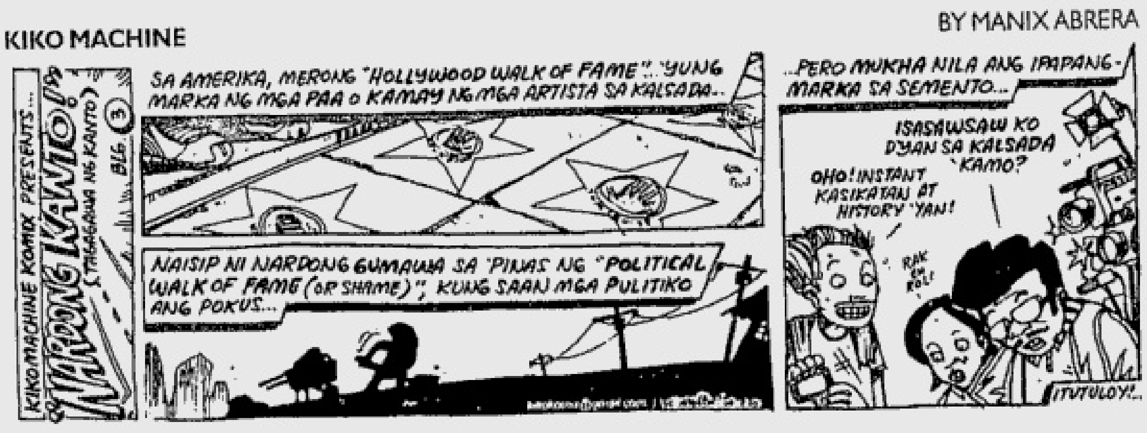
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I THINK I SEE MYSELF IN THIS LITTLE GUY...
THE EYES... MAYBE IT'S THE EYES... OR THE SHAPE OF THE FACE...
SOMETHING... THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING...
I'D SAY IT'S THE MOUTH... DEFINITELY THE MOUTH!
HUNGY! I HUNGY! WAAAAH!
SHELTON 8-8

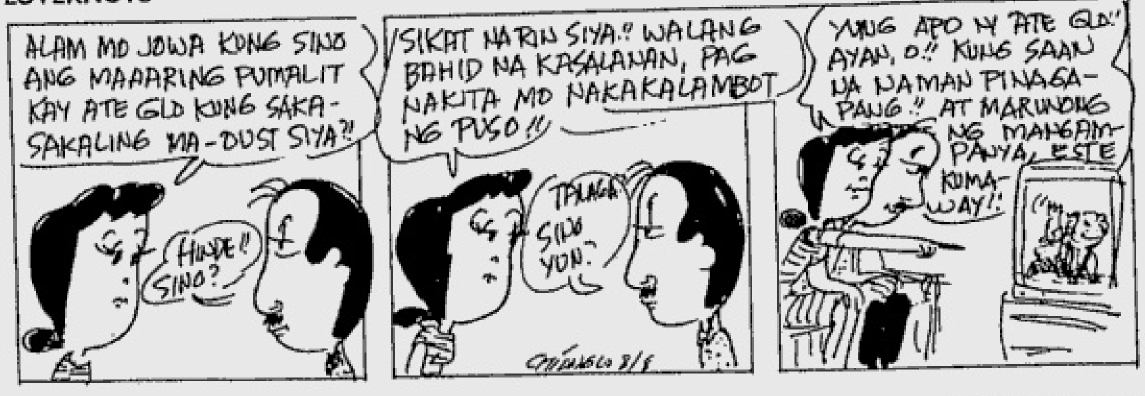
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINE KOMIX PRESENTS... "NARDONG KANTO!" (TAGASAWA NG KANTO) BIG 3
SA AMERIKA, MERONG "HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME"... 'YUNG MARKA NG MGA PAA O KAMAY NG MGA ARTISTA SA KALSADA..
NAISIP NI NARDONG GUMAWA SA 'PINAS NG "POLITICAL WALK OF FAME (OR SHAME)", KUNG SAAN MGA PULITIKO ANG POKUS...
..PERO MUKHA NILA ANG IPAPANG-MARKA SA SEMENTO...
ISASAWSAW KO D'YAN SA KALSADA 'KAMO?
OHO! INSTANT KASIKATAN AT HISTORY 'YAN!
RAK EN ROL!
ITUTULOY!..

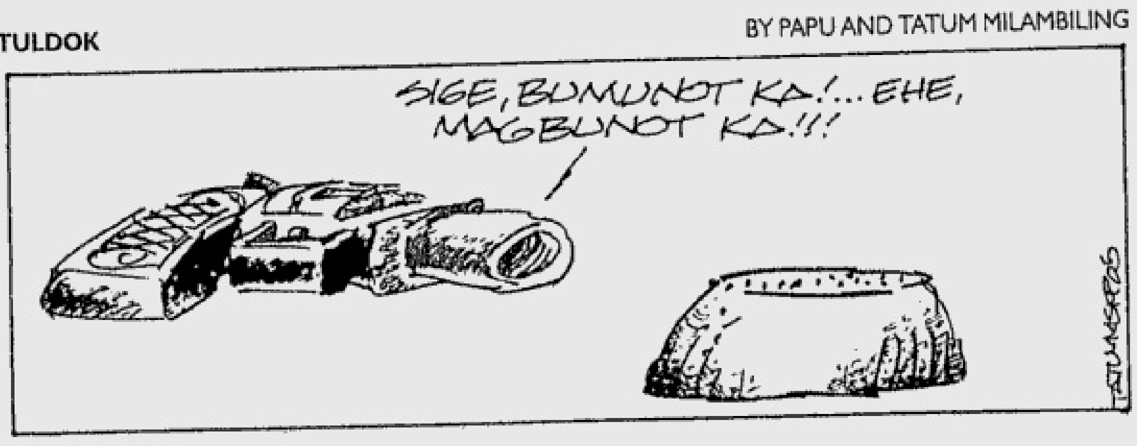
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO JOWA KUNG SINO ANG MAAARING PUMALIT KAY ATE GLD KUNG SAKA-SAKALING MA-DUST SIYA?!
HINDE!! SINO?
SIKAT NA RIN SIYA!! WALANG BAHID NA KASALANAN, PAG NAKITA MO NAKAKALAMBOT NG PUSO!!
TALAGA SINO YON?
YUNG APO NI ATE GLD! AYAN, O!! KUNG SAAN NA NAMAN PINAGA-PANG!! AT MARUNONG NG MANGAMPANYA, ESTE KUMAWAY!!
CHIONGLO 8/8

TULDOK

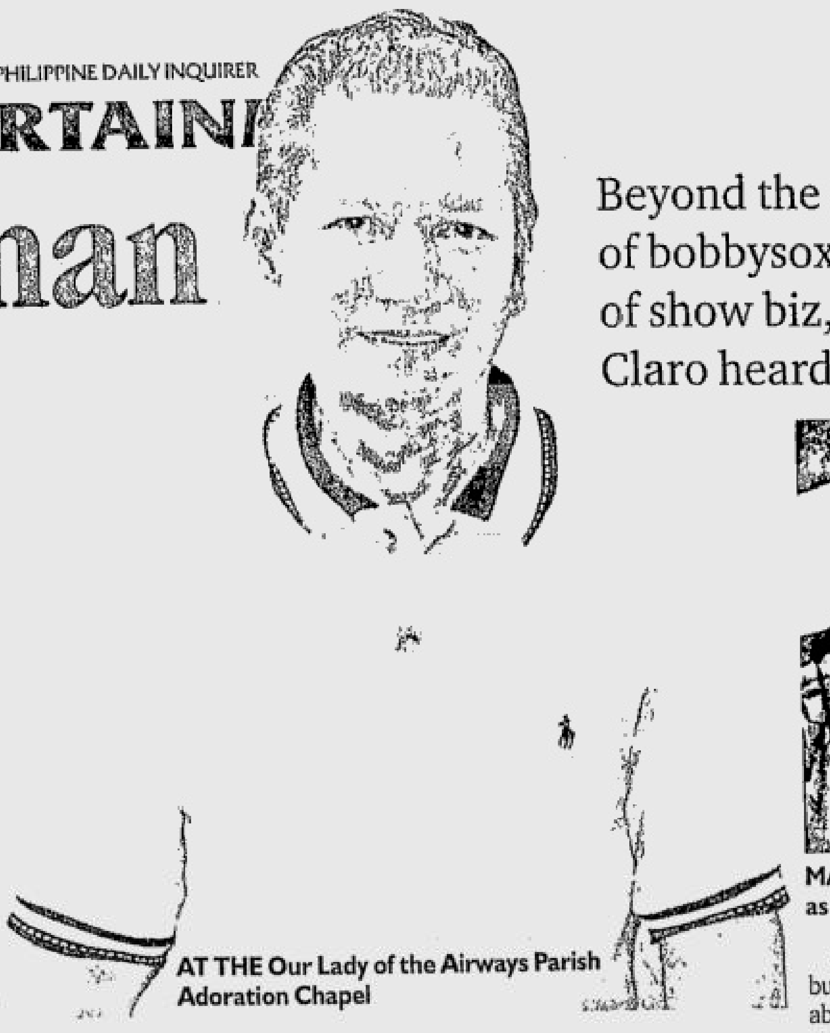
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SIGE, BUMUNOT KA!... EHE, MAGBUNOT KA!!!

Still the music man

Beyond the shrieks of bobbysoxers and the din of show biz, teen idol Manding Claro heard his true calling

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Betoy Johnson
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF MANDING CLARO AND AURORA BAUTISTA



AT THE Our Lady of the Airways Parish Adoration Chapel

PLAYING congo drums—a skill imparted by the legendary Totoy Boogie.

"NENITA Vidal and I were the first teenage love team in local movies," says Manding Claro, now 65 years old. Before us, there were no teen stars."

Far from an empty boast, his claim is a piece of Pinoy pop history.

Generations of teen idols—from Guy and Pip to Jennylyn and Mark—do owe more than a debt of gratitude to that 1950s pair.

Music flows in Armando Claro's blood. He inherited his father Febo's gift of song.

YESTERDAY

"He was an interior decorator for the production company Parlatone Hispano-Filipino," Manding recalls. "Carmen Rosales was his friend; they often sang duets at gatherings. I doubt if he ever sang professionally."

As a 9-year-old, Manding went caroling with his playmates in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

As fate would have it, one of their neighbors was a relative of director Susana C. de Guzman, who was scouting out talents for LVN matriarch Narcisa "Doña Sisang" de Leon.

"Mommy Susana needed child stars," Manding recounts. "She invited me to join the cast of 'Yolanda' as an extra. My future partner Nenita Vidal was also in it."

Nenita, a granddaughter of Doña Sisang's, was a charmer, Manding notes.

Teen flicks

Six years later, Manding and Nenita's paths crossed again. They were paired in the LVN teen flicks "Phone Pal," "Teenage Crush," "Dama Juana Gang," "Dalagita at Binatilyo" and "Ikaw Kasi."

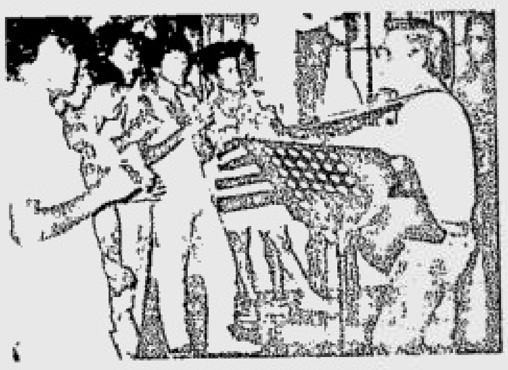
The last one, directed by Manuel Conde, was one of the earliest full color movies produced in the country.

When Nenita left to study Dentistry in America, he was matched with Luz Valdez ("Ay, Pepita") and Marita Zobel ("Mr. Announcer").

Manding rocked and rolled onscreen. "Aside from singing originals by Levi Celerio, I also did Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins and Buddy Holly."

He played the conga drums—a skill passed on by the legendary Totoy Boogie, an LVN dancer in those days.

Another contemporary, German Moreno, introduced Manding to Clover Theater's Don Jose Zara. "I became a Clover regular, along with the Reycard Duet, Pilita Corrales, Bobby Gonzalez, and Elizabeth Ramsey."



HOSTING a Catholic Life in the Spirit Seminar at the Manila City Jail in 1992.

Manding counts himself lucky for having shared the stage and screen with the biggest names in the business. He matched wits with Drama King Eddie Rodriguez and a furry co-star in "Eddie Junior Detective."

"It was a trained German Shepherd," he says, "a local Rin Tin Tin. The movie was directed by Tony Santos Sr., my favorite actor of all time."

The music and the revelry ended when Manding, barely 18, met a motorcycle accident.

Unlike Hollywood rebel James Dean who perished in a car mishap, Manding got a second chance.

"I had a fractured skull and was ordered by the doctor to stay away from the hot lights used in movie making," he explains.

"DAMA Juana Gang" cast: Manding Claro, Charito Solis, Lito Carmelo, Nenita Vidal and Hector Reyes

With siblings Olive and Noel, he formed The Claros and did the rounds of US bases in the country. "We performed in Clark, Subic, Sangley," he recounts. "We hired a budding singer from Bicol."

The newcomer's name was Imelda Papin. The Claros also hit the high seas and headlined shows in Japan, Thailand, Taipei, Singapore and Guam.

When Manding returned, the studio system had collapsed and his former LVN colleagues had scattered to do movies with independent companies and its rival, Sampaguita.

Health crisis

Manding himself proceeded to do three Sampaguita movies, including "Way Out in the Country," which starred Susan Roces and neophyte Nora Aunor.

IN "MEDALYANG Perlas" with Mario Montenegro

MANDING Claro and partner Nenita Vidal as Lifebuoy soap models

In the 1970s and 1980s, Manding remained busy with numerous performances here and abroad. Then he was felled by a major health crisis. "Doctors found out that my head was filling up with blood, on account of my old accident. I was confined at the UST Hospital, on the brink of death."

His faith saved him in the nick of time.

After attending a Catholic Life in the Spirit Seminar, he was inspired to play what to him would be the most meaningful role of all.

"At first, I was just a musician in those meetings. Then they asked me to share my experiences," he says. "I was hesitant at first; I wasn't a public speaker."

That was 21 years ago. "This is my new life," the seminar speaker enthuses.

He resides in Laguna, but doesn't think twice about motoring to Quezon City to facilitate Life in the Spirit seminars.

He was "re-discovered" by future Monsignor Modesto Teston in the chapel of the old Manila International Airport. "He heard me speak and invited me to serve in Our Lady of the Airways Parish. Now, I sing in masses and weddings."

He acknowledges that his past celebrity has been a big boost to his present vocation.

"One woman from Cavite forced her husband to accompany her to one of our seminars because she had seen my name in the souvenir program," he says. "She was my fan!"

In the 1950s, he says, Doña Sisang inculcated in her contract stars the notion of selfless service.

"She sent us to the Muntinlupa prison, orphanages, the Golden Acres and depressed areas, to entertain the less-fortunate," he says. "Perhaps I carry that with me until now."

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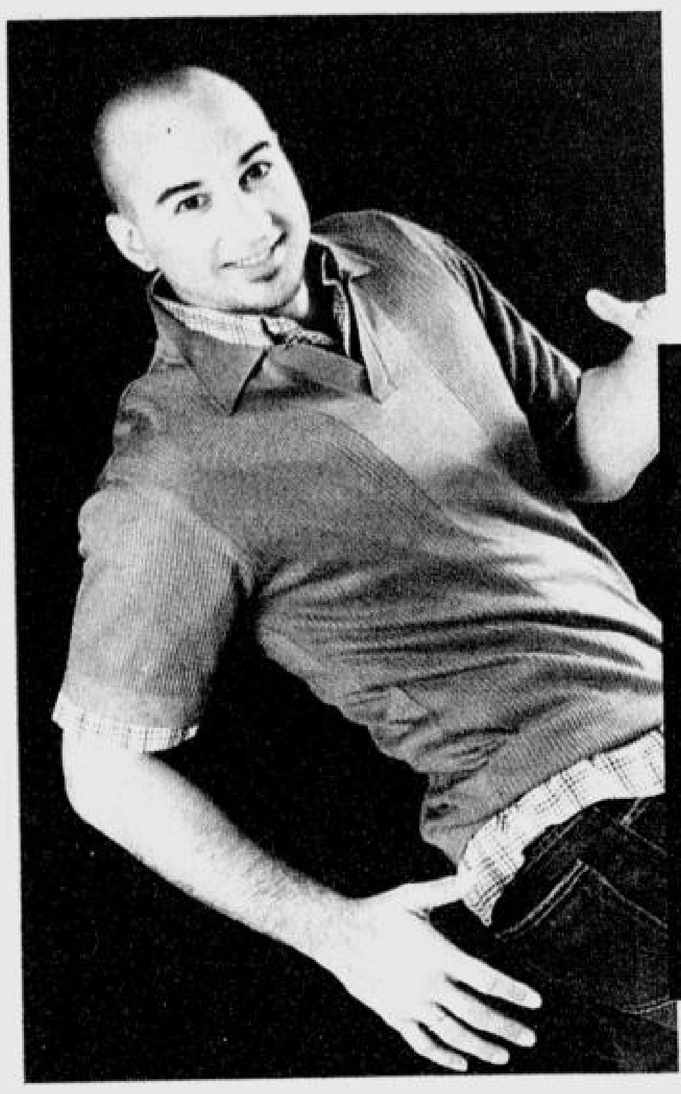

KC Montero: Tall, smart and then some

Text, styling and direction by Larry Leviste
Photos by Romy Homillada

COUTURE MENSWEAR BY TONICHI NOCUM
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GROOMING AND MAKE-UP BY DIERIE ORTIZ

KC MONTERO, born Cassey Miller, is a man born with luck. He has been an MTV veejay for eight years, and now produces his own shows with Sarah Meier—"Countdown" and "Hanging Out."

His true love and partner is Geneva Cruz. Together, they raise Heaven, Geneva's son, and . . . well, " make beautiful music together." That is, recording, composing and performing. Also; KC used to own a club called Industry.

In person—unlike his zany and comedic persona on MTV or on GMA 7's Sunday variety show "SOP," KC is completely serious about his work.

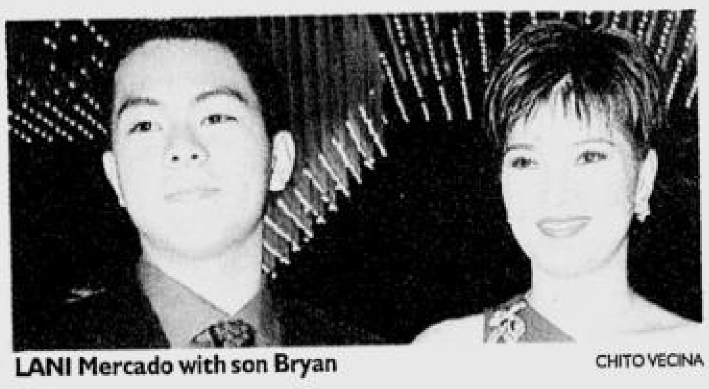
"I love to discover local talent—singers, musicians. I'd love to produce and direct in the future. Not all of us should sing or try so hard. Instead, you can find those who can and support and encourage them. Launch them, produce their first CD, get them air time. That's my dream. To offer to the world music industry a Filipino force," said KC.

Of course, his company will launch Geneva first. "The market is ripe for Latino-Asian talent," he pointed out.

For this exclusive fashion spread, KC Montero—he with the P. Diddy attitude and Usher-like moves—is the perfect model for Manila's top men's wear designer Tonichi Nocum. The collection is exclusively available at SM.

KC said he likes the cool knit pullovers and sweaters, a Nocum staple.

ROUNDUP



LANI Mercado with son Bryan CHITO VECINA

Drug test

"IT'S UNFAIR that my son has been dragged into this," lamented actress Lani Mercado, reacting to rumors that her eldest son, Bryan Revilla, is a drug addict.

Lawyer Ernesto C. Perez III last week sent INQUIRER Entertainment a copy of a drug test result conducted on June 8 by the De La Salle-HSC Drug Test Laboratory on Bryan.

The test found Leonard Bryan H. Bautista "negative of any narcotic, prohibited or regulated drug use."

Bryan is taking up diplomatic affairs at the College of St. Benilde-De La Salle in Manila.

In an interview on the show biz talk show "The Buzz," former actress Rosanna Roces said Bryan was hooked on Ecstasy, a "designer" drug.

Marinel R. Cruz

Really, Holly?

HUNTER

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning actress Holly Hunter is pregnant at the age of 47 with her first—and second—child, according to the entertainment news service E! Online.

The report said Hunter was expecting twins with her boyfriend, British actor Gordon MacDonald.

The two met in 2004, when they co-starred as lovers in a play in London, "By the Bog of Cats."

It was not clear if the couple planned to marry before the birth.

Hunter, who won a best actress Oscar for her leading role in the 1993 movie "The Piano," is currently in production on the dramatic thriller "Downloading Nancy," opposite William Hurt.

AFP

Christian on 'Idol'

Singing champ Christian Bautista will perform as a special guest in the Grand Finals of "Indonesian Idol" on Aug. 12. He will sing "The Way You Look at Me, Bahasa Cinta" with female finalists, and a duet with last season's winner, Delon.

Depp and Travolta in HK

HONG KONG—Hollywood heartthrobs Johnny Depp and John Travolta will reportedly join singer Julie Andrews to help launch Disneyland's new theme park in Hong Kong next month.

Andrews has been appointed the official ambassador of Hong Kong Disneyland when the House of Mouse opens the gates of the US$3.2-billion project, its first such venture in Asia, on Sept. 12, the Apple Daily paper said.

AFP

TFC in American Samoa

Viewers in Asia Pacific and Australia, including American Samoa, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Papua New Guinea and Singapore will now be able to see ABS-CBN and TFC (The Filipino Channel) shows live.

This has been made possible by the recent launch of ABS-CBN Global's fourth dedicated feed for overseas Filipinos after North America, Middle East and Europe.

Kate H for monogamy

HUDSON

NEW YORK—Kate Hudson says monogamy isn't "realistic," but believes couples have the power to be faithful.

In an interview Thursday on syndicated TV show "Access Hollywood," the 26-year-old actress said, "I don't believe (monogamy) is realistic. But, I believe that we, as people, have the power to make it happen."

She added: "I will not disrespect my husband and stray."

Hudson, the daughter of actress Goldie Hawn, married Black Crowes singer Chris Robinson on Dec. 31, 2000. The couple have an 18-month-old son, Ryder.

AP

Queen of the indies

Theater thespian Irma Adlawan gets ready for her closeup.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TAKE FIVE

SHE is hailed by her "Mga Pusang Gala" director Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil as "Queen of Independent Movies."

What she won recently, in fact, is an Aliw Award for Best Performance in a Non-Musical Play ("Speaking in Tongues").

Irma Adlawan, who has been laboring tenaciously in theater for the past 22 years, is genuinely embarrassed by her new appellation and consequent celebrity.

Still, the title is well-deserved. In the past year alone, she has starred in three independently produced digital films—"Mga Pusang Gala," financed by Erasto and MLR; "ICU Bed #7," a Cinemalaya winner, and "Sa North Diversion Road," a Cinema One Originals entry.

In the last one, she portrayed 10 characters! This film was also directed by her husband Dennis Marasigan who, in the early '90s, created one of her most memorable characters onstage, a Chinoy producer inspired by Regal Films matriarch Lily Monteverde.

In spite of her sterling acting credits (including roles in masterpieces by Moliere, Chekhov and Shakespeare), Mother Lily who, in 2001 produced "Tuhog," where Irma had a breakout role, was not impressed.

According to "Tuhog" director Jeffrey Jeturian, the producer's initial reaction to Irma's performance was: "I didn't know that her role was long. You should've hired a real actress."

Irma had the last laugh, however, because her work in "Tuhog" merited Best Supporting Actress and Best Actress nominations from the Star and the Urian, respectively.

How does it feel being queen?

No! When it comes to the movie industry, I consider myself a newcomer. It's just that "Pusang Gala" and the Cinemalaya and Cinema One projects came out at the same time.

What's your take on the digital revolution?

I am very thankful to the independent digital filmmakers. Since they are not dictated upon by big producers, they can make their artistic choices freely. So we, the small ones, are given meaty roles.

How did you prepare for the "Mother Lily" role in the play "Ang Buhay ay Pelikula?"

The thing is, I haven't met her. When we did the play, I relied on the anecdotes shared by people who had worked with her. My husband was assistant director for Ishmael Bernal in Regal. He told me how Mother would talk on three different phones while reprimanding someone in front of her all at the same time!

What was it like being directed by your husband in "Sa North Diversion Road?"

We have this running gag that I bagged the role because I was sleeping with the director! Well, it has its advantages and disadvantages. The lines between the professional and the personal are often blurred. But the great thing is, when I want to suggest something, it's easier to approach and talk to him. We speak the same language.

Wasn't he shocked by your daring scenes in "Pusang Gala?"

Dennis is very supportive. Our friends were concerned about his reaction. I assured them it was just work!

RECEIVING her Aliw Award on Wednesday

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

To think you're a mother of four!

My twin daughters are already 20 years old. My other girl is 16 and our youngest, a boy, is six.

What convinced you to accept "Pusang Gala" in spite of the risqué scenes?

It helped that we had a female director. I was confident that she wouldn't put me in a bad light.

In mainstream movies, you are often relegated to supporting roles?

I don't mind a bit. I love to act. As Stanislavski would say: There are no small roles; only small actors.

Should-see movies on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DON'T miss these especially viewable movies on TV:

Aug. 12, 11 p.m. on Disney, "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." Dr. Pierre Aronnax travels the depths of the sea and gets involved with Capt. Nemo and his amazing submarine, the Nautilus.

Tonight, 9 p.m. on Cinemax, "An Officer and a Gentleman." Zack Mayo wants to make it through basic training for Navy flight school—and he will, if the Navy's toughest drill sergeant, Emil Foley, doesn't break him or whip him into shape first. Stars **Richard Gere, Debra Winger** and **Louis Gossett Jr.**

Aug. 13, 9 p.m., Star Movies, "Black Hawk Down." When two seemingly invincible Black Hawk helicopters are shot down, the mission changes into a desperate race to rescue the surviving flight crew and soldiers on the ground. Stars **Josh Hartnett, Tim Sizemore, Ewan McGregor.**

Aug. 11, 6 a.m., HBO, "The Boxer." Convicted for IRA activities and released from prison after 14 years, Danny Flynn returns to the Belfast neighborhood of his youth determined to rebuild his shattered life. Stars **Daniel Day-Lewis** and **Emily Watson.**

Tomorrow, 12:35 a.m., Cinemax, "Cape Fear." Max Cady is bent on teaching lawyer Sam Bowden something about loss. His plan includes playing on strained family ties and getting into the minds of the Bowden women. Stars **Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, Jessica Lange** and **Juliette Lewis.**

Aug. 16, 2:30 p.m., Cinemax, "Charade." Young widow Reggie Lampert is stalked by mourners at her husband's funeral and realizes that her late husband has secreted a fortune during World War II. Stars **Cary Grant, Audrey Hepburn, Walter Matthau** and **James Coburn.**

Aug. 14, 9 p.m., Lifestyle Network, "Crimes & Misdemeanors." Judah Rosenthall has had an affair with Dolores for several years, and now she threatens to ruin his life if he doesn't marry her!

Acclaimed actors in 'Frozen'

Following the immense success of its recent productions—"Cabaret" and "The Blue Room"—the New Voice Company will next stage **Bryony Lavery**'s "Frozen," on Sept. 9, 10, 16 and 17, at the Republic of Malate Theater. (Call 8966695 or 8919999 for tickets.) **Rito Asilo** directs.

"Frozen," an inspiring, dramatic and compassionate new play, was first produced by the Royal National Theater of London to great critical acclaim. The play is about forgiveness, and raises questions about grief, revenge, morality and humanity, with great passion, humor, pathos and understanding.

In the play, 10-year-old Rhona suddenly goes missing. Her mother, Nancy, must cope with her disappearance, and retreats into a state of frozen hope. Agnetha, an American academic, comes to England to research a thesis titled "Serial Killing: A Forgivable Act?" And then there's Frank, the kidnapper, a loner who has a dark past and is looking for some distraction.

These three strangers, drawn together by horrific circumstances, embark on a long, dark journey—which finally curves upward toward the light.

The challenging roles are played by NVC's finest actors—**Jenny Jamora** is Agnetha, **Roselyn Perez** is Nancy and **Jamie Wilson** is Frank.

Reviews of the play have been uniformly glowing: Talking Broadway: "Makes you see the complexity of the issues, clinical as well as moral. Makes you also feel the loss, the pain and the unbearable pain."

The Independent: "Consistently surprising and even bravely comic—the almost thriller-like promise of the play's climactic confrontation is like a time bomb ticking in the back of your head."

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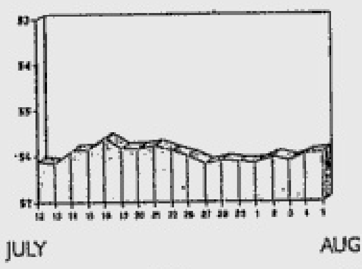

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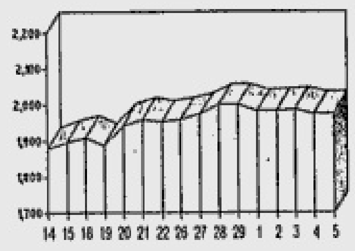
STOCK MARKET

Cautious trading seen



INVESTORS are expected to stay cautious this week although enlivened by news of mergers and acquisitions among banks, analysts said.

Last week, the main index fell 24.65 points or 1.23 percent, with political concerns still weighing on economic prospects for the year.

"The market was also overdue for a correction after reaching a new five-week high recently. Share prices have been going up after responding to good economic data and strong corporate earnings," Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities said in a weekly report.

"Investors have focused their interest on the possible consolidation within the banking industry after the announcements of recent bank acquisitions of Equitable and Prudential Bank (by Bank of the Philippine Islands)," BPI Trade said in a note to clients. The government and taipan Lucio Tan are also selling jointly 67-percent of Philippine Nation

CAUTIOUS/ B3

BIR misses collection goal for July by 20%

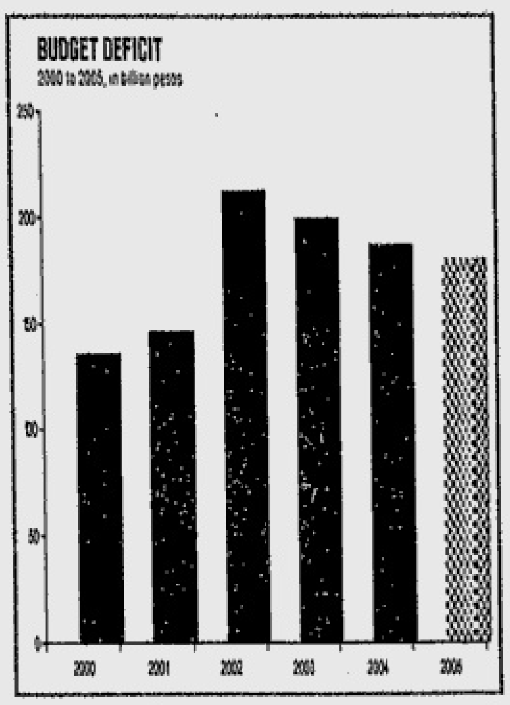
By Michelle V. Remo

THE INTER-AGENCY Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) has raised the national government's deficit projection for 2005 back to P180 billion following preliminary reports that the Bureau of Internal Revenue missed its target for July by a big margin.

The P180 billion was the national government's official budget deficit target for the year, but the Department of Finance had made a rosy projection that the figure could be reduced to P160 billion or P158 billion following a good fiscal performance in the first half.

In the first six months, the national government's budget

BUDGET/ B4



WHAT'S INSIDE

The EPCIB Saga, II
/B3

Sy to buy more EPCIB shares
/B4

Trade data fiasco exposes NSO's antiquated system

SPECIAL REPORT

By Daxim L. Lucas
and Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL Statistics Office's (NSO) admission last week that it had grossly understated the country's trade deficit for the past years was only the latest symptom of a problem that has plagued local economic planners since the 1970s.

Simply put, the revelation meant that the country as a whole had all this time been living beyond its means and, in 2004 alone, by a staggering $3.6 billion. Instead of the earlier reported trade deficit of $713 million, NSO said the true figure was actually $4.36 billion.

The discrepancy—a yawning 86-percent difference—led to criticism of the NSO's data-gathering methods, and has once more tainted the agency's credibility in reporting vital figures on which many economic and business projections and decisions are hinged.

More importantly, the revisions meant that the country's economic growth this year would likely fall far shorter of

TRADE/ B2

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MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

THE DEVELOPMENT of human resources and skills encompasses all levels—from intellect, skills to talents.

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) covers the technical skills of human resources, involving skills in hotel management, information technology, and "hard" skills, such as vehicle mechanics, plumbing, electrical, carpentry and welding.

The 2005 Mindanao Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) HRSD Conference was held in Koronadal City during the annual "Tinalak Festival."

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Fuentes is a strong supporter of the TVET sector, and so we gave no second thoughts to choosing Koronadal City as this year's venue. It was also hard to resist the enthusiasm showed by the Tesda Region 12 OIC Ranie Herrera and the South Cotabato Private Technical Schools.

Over the years, the challenge to improve and upgrade the skills of our regions' manpower, to be competitive to meet the call of globalization, has been the main concern of tech-voc institutions and the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

At present, the call of the stakeholders is to professionalize technical education, to eliminate the public perception that tech-voc courses are second-class education available only as a last resort to the poor and academically-challenged individuals.

The unique skills and hands-on abilities of technical experts have been overlooked, and the weight of their contribution and importance in business operations lack proper credit.

After all, industrialization does not only require managers and engineers, but highly skilled technicians, as well.

Just imagine what would happen if we don't have electricians, plumbers, painters, auto mechanics, air con, computer repair, cell phone technicians, chefs, waiters, roomboys, bartenders, dress makers and even beauty salon operators.

This conference became an avenue for technical-vocational school administrators, industry and labor leaders, policy makers, and other stakeholders to re-assess the quality of skills of the human resource in Mindanao.

In this industry gathering, the delegates from Regions 9, 10, 11, 12 and Caraga faced the pressing issues on academic freedom of schools and institutions on the issue of curriculum revision, on ensuring the quality of instructors and trainers, and the institutionalization of the "ladderization equivalency and credit transfer."

As such, after several consultations with regional private and public partners, the Office of the President released an order to "institutionalize a ladderized interface between TVET and Higher Education."

Through Executive Order No. 358, credits and course work in technical and vocational courses can be transferred and recognized by higher education institutions.

This program paves the way for more students to attain a higher education degree after taking a tech-voc course, by accrediting units equivalent to those in the college curriculum.

It broadens the spectrum of tech-voc education, by opening more doors for tech-voc students to explore additional courses, without starting from scratch.

In the past, a graduate of a technical course is stuck there. There is no room to move upwards. If he does, he has to start all over again; his tech voc units will never be credited.

In the Davao Region, the Tesda-accredited institutions and the University of Southeastern Philippines (USP) have partnered in implementing this program of ladderized equivalency, while a few private institutions in other Mindanao regions have forged inter-school ties.

The conference also highlighted the basic elements that tech-voc institutions must prioritize in having—competent trainers, viable curriculum and extensive practical application for students, thus bringing the issue back to what really matters most in providing quality education.

The existing global trends affect not only Mindanao TVET, but the Philippine industry, as well.

According to Tesda, massive changes in work content, particularly in high technology and service industries, may make our manpower unfit to meet the needs of industry. Obsolete knowledge and skills are the cruel effects of global modernization and industrialization.

Conferences in human resource development is beneficial and productive if we have the initiatives to put into good work the words that have been presented, shared and agreed upon.

As direct players of the TVET-HRSD Industry, we understand the value of hands-on, human work. This makes small and big machines running, tasteless ingredients delicious and plain clothes into runway masterpieces.

There is still much work to be done and investing in Mindanao's

INVESTING/ B7

ABC-5 looks for new investors

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GROUP of Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco is talking with new investors willing to infuse roughly P1 billion in fresh equity into Associated Broadcasting Corp., the network's top official said.

ABC chair Jose Pardo, however, declined to identify groups that Cojuangco was inviting to join him in the operations of Channel 5.

The former Finance secretary said the broadcasting company needed about P1 billion to roll out new infrastructure to widen the reach and improve reception of Channel 5 in Metro Manila and key provincial areas.

Cojuangco led a group of businessmen who acquired ABC from Edward Tan for about P4.5 billion in October 2003.

Cojuangco holds majority of the shares, and 32 percent is owned by DM Archers of banker Raul de Mesa, who also sits as president of Cojuangco-controlled Bank of Commerce.

But Channel 5 insiders said the staff was demoralized and some were getting impatient with the improvements the new owners had promised to deliver when they bought the station in 2003.

Salaries have been delayed and a growing number wanted to try their luck with the other stations, according to an insider.

A source said Cojuangco wanted to reduce the station's overhead to about P150 million from the annual budget of more than P350 million.

ABC-5 spends about a million pesos a day for overhead.

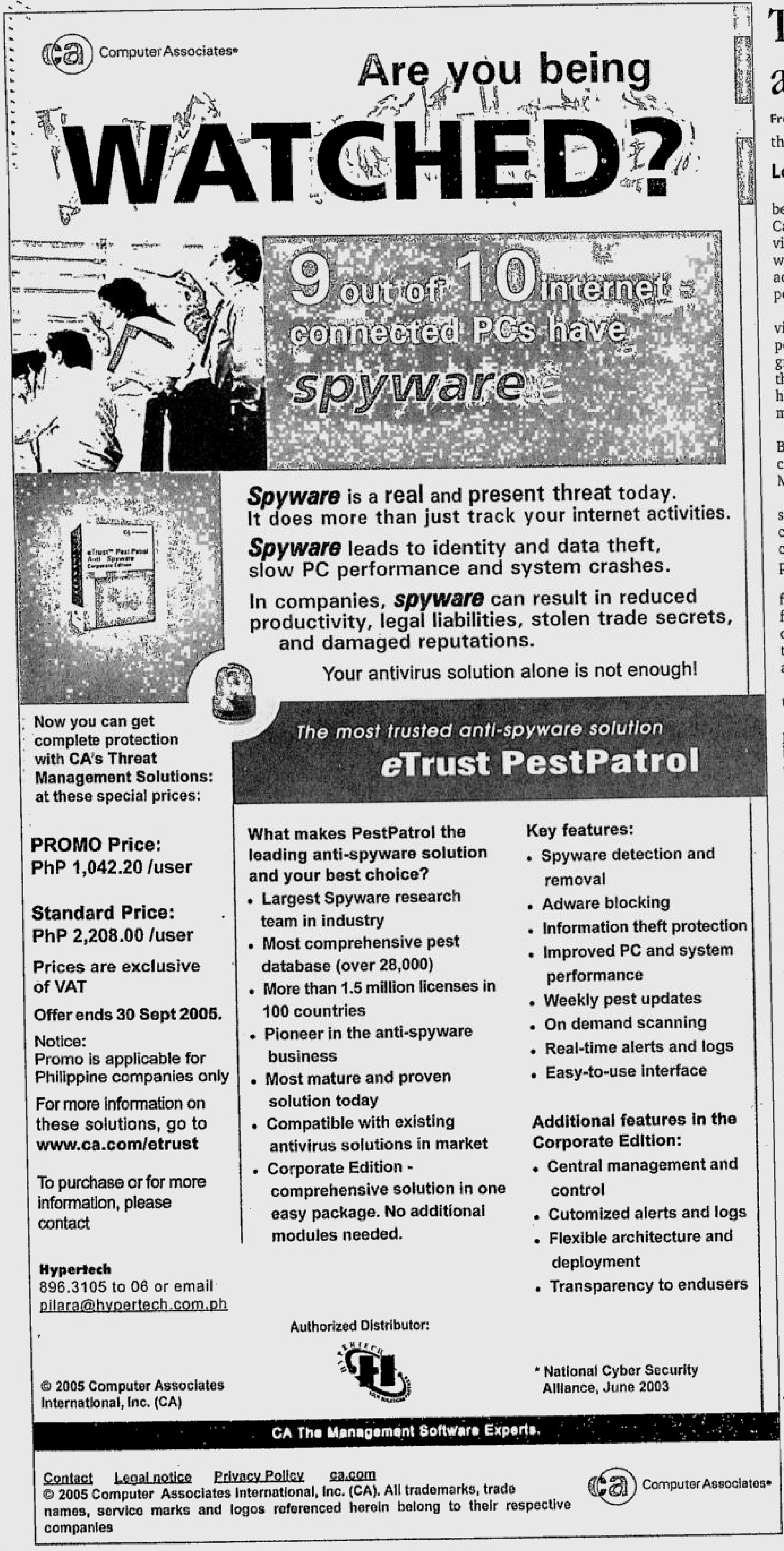
The businessman was said to be calling for a review of the original business plan that projected losses in the first two years of operations under the new owners, break even by the third and profits by the fourth year of operations.

"The word going around is that Cojuangco doesn't want to invest his own money and that he believed that now was not a good time to pour in a huge amount in any project," said an insider.

But Pardo disputed this and insisted that Cojuangco was committed to growing and improving ABC.

"Tonyboy is very much committed to the network. We are a strong third now and there had been more revenues coming in," he said.

Pardo said the shareholders would like to take advantage of the network's momentum, having gained enough following for its home grown programs and international blockbuster shows.



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Trade fiasco exposes NSO's antiquated system

From page B1

the government's rosy projections.

Lower economic output

"Our GDP [gross domestic product] will be lower because of this," said economist Cayetano Paderanga in a telephone interview last week. "These revisions mean that we have actually been putting in less 'value-added' [content] to the products we export."

GDP is the total value of the goods and services produced in the country within a certain period. This year, economists expects GDP to grow by slightly over 5 percent, at best, given the already fragile political situation which has put many businesses on wait-and-see mode.

Paderanga heads the Credit Information Bureau Inc. (CIBI), the local equivalent of credit watchers like Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investors Service, and Fitch Ratings.

The new figures have him worried since it signals that local manufacturers actually contribute much less to the production process of imported raw materials before reexport.

"Our net value added is not that high in the first place," Paderanga said, explaining that for every $1 worth of exports, only about 30 cents come in the form of local inputs, while the rest are made up of imported raw materials.

"This probably means that our real net value added is now below 30 percent," he said.

The CIBI head points out, however, that public perception about the revised data may be far more damaging than its economic reality.

History of shoddy statistics

"Unfortunately, we have had episodes in the past where our official statistics have come into question," Paderanga said. He knows. Paderanga once served on the Monetary Board of the central bank—an institution that was accused by the International Monetary Fund in the 1980s of deliberately padding the country's hard currency reserves to prop up the weakening economy of an unpopular regime in Malacañang.

Fortunately, economists and analysts are not yet accusing the Arroyo administration of doctoring its economic statistics to boost its flagging fortunes.

"The perception of foreign investors and analysts is very important," he said. "Let's hope they don't seen it that way."

For its part, the NSO is not being defensive about the issue. In fact, it is humble and intellectually honest enough to admit that its data-gathering system is far from being 100-percent efficient.

Technology-shy

NSO Director III Estela de Guzman says the level of accuracy—or inaccuracy—of their agency's reports has to do both with the difficulty of forcing subjects to take statistical surveys seriously, and with the need for it to be acclimatized with the use of modern technology.

In an age when other countries have long been transacting with government agencies electronically, the Bureau of Customs, where the NSO gets imports and exports data, adopted an electronic means of transacting with importers and exporters for the first time only two years ago.

The so-called Automated Electronic Documentation System (AEDS), which significant numbers of importers and exporters began to use last year, allowed them to submit trade requirements, such as export declarations, electronically.

This shift to high technology caused the NSO more headaches than it solved. De Guzman considers these headaches normal but temporary repercussions of change.

Prior to the AEDS system, NSO was already having problems with collecting data on the value of raw materials imported by some electronic companies. Some electronic firms—particularly those that receive raw materials from parent firms, rather than buy them from suppliers—do not know how to value these imports. This keeps them from reporting to the Customs bureau the accurate values of their imports.

Another problem is the companies' negligence in providing accurate data. Some firms entrust the responsibility of filling up administrative forms to their freight forwarders.

The NSO had a hunch that there could be some errors in the trade figure it earlier reported. It re-computed the trade data of the country's top 25 electronics companies. By going through the tedious process of gathering all their export declarations, the NSO realized that its hunch was correct.

What it did not expect was the magnitude of just how correct its hunch was—all $3.6 billion worth.

One pocket to another

Policy-makers at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), however, are unfazed by the revisions, especially since they had already revised their own figures last year in anticipation of the NSO's own corrections.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the higher value of imports was offset by lower short-term capital outflows, and a reduction in what it euphemistically labels as the "errors and omissions" account.

Since the dollars were transferred only "from one pocket to another," the total amount of dollars that flowed in and out of the country for 2004 remained the same, he explained.

For now, CIBI's Paderanga sees no immediate threat to the country's credit rating, which has already suffered a "quasi-downgrade" in the wake of the political crisis.

"A country's ratings depends on its capacity to pay [its debt]," he pointed out. "Since the amount of dollars in the system is the same, I see no problem with that."

Begging for funding

Being honest about the problems encountered by her office, De Guzman says the NSO is actually in search of financial support from donor-organizations that can finance studies on how it can improve its data-gathering system.

"We are hoping an organization can sponsor our people to see how data-gathering and statistics administration is being done in other countries," she says.

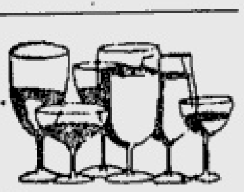
The NSO, situated in an old and unnoticeable building along Magsaysay Avenue in Manila, has already written a request to the United Nations for support, and is now waiting for a response, she adds.

The NSO has formed tie-ups with organizations like the Export Development Council and the Philippine Exporters Confederation to ask them to impress upon the minds of their members the importance of providing accurate data when filling up government forms.

Without more money, Paderanga believes analysts should brace for more surprising revisions in the country's economic and statistical data.

The EPCIB Saga, Part 2

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

WITH taipan Henry Sy finally acquiring the Go block in Equitable PCI Bank, the tele-commerce series next unfolds at the Supreme Court, where the legality of the sale of the SSS shareholdings in EPCIB to the Sy group is pending.

According to the grapevine, no matter how the high court rules, the decision would once and for all provide a legal roadmap on how the other government block, that of the GSIS, would eventually dispose of its EPCIB shareholdings.

Still, the smart money is on the Government Service Insurance System agreeing to swap its EPCIB block with the Sys' Banco de Oro shares for greater liquidity and hopefully higher upside potential.

With the EPCIB entry, another strategic benefit for BDO is that the Sys will have gained a foothold in Bank of Commerce, in which EPCIB owns 5 percent. Incidentally, along with EPCIB, the PLDT Retirement Fund also happens to be one of the five major shareholders of the Cojuangco-controlled bank.

Let us see now. BDO chair Teresita Sy also sits in the PLDT board, PLDT Retirement Fund wants more liquidity and more market-determined pricing for its investments, and Bank of Commerce like EPCIB does not have a dominant shareholder group. Hmmm.

Go with the flow

GEORGE Go may be in the family doghouse but the former Equitable PCI Bank chair has not been left out of the Go family sellout.

According to the grapevine, George was very much in on the deal even though he no longer had beneficial ownership of the 33 million EPCIB shares that he owned until he stepped down from the bank as a result of the Edsa II upheaval.

A portion of the George shareholdings was apparently locked in the Go family corporation, which had agreed to the sellout to the Sys.

Another, bigger portion, about 20 million shares, was said to had been pledged during the Erap bankrun days to Sen. Alfredo Lim as security for Lim's estimated P800 million to P900 million placement with the bank's investment banking subsidiary.

At P56.50/share, the alleged Lim placement has overnight ballooned to P1.13 billion, not including the Forbes Park house that George supposedly threw in to cover interest payments.

The rehabilitation of Romualdez

THE BENJAMIN "Kokoy" Romualdez family crest, in case you have not noticed, has been slowly, steadily buffed, and now represents one of the remarkable turnarounds, given the family's turbulent political history, in the Philippine business firmament.

Son Ferdinand Martin is back in the saddle of Equitable PCI Bank—PCI Bank having been a Romualdez bank until Edsa I—with the enthusiastic backing of both the GSIS and the SSS.

Another son, Benjamin Philip, married to the INQUIRER president, is the de facto mining adviser of GMA, by virtue of his chairmanship of and his family having reacquired Benguet Corp.

Both foreign educated and a sartorial improvement over their diplomat-father, Benjamin Philip and Ferdinand Martin even count among their ardent admirers the Opus Dei, Marcos-crony bashing professor, Bernardo Villegas, now a Benguet director.

With his camera hobby, Benjamin Philip could delight even Ayala patriarch Jaime Zobel with hours of aperture talk.

In addition to their affinity with the INQUIRER, the Romualdezes have won back the Journal newspaper group, a Leyte radio station, and a medical school. An uncle who heads a PR and advertising outfit is even deeply embedded with the US embassy and the Philippine military, thanks to his partner, a curiously coiffed publisher.

Like their famous aunt, Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, both the Romualdez boys stuck in their necks out with their pro-GMA sentiments, questioning how their board at the Makati Business Club allegedly railroaded the MBC "Resign GMA" statement.

Money-go-round

- LEXUS, which is this month inaugurating a nationwide network in Japan, plans to open an initial Philippine branch, most likely in The Fort, late next year, simultaneous with Thailand and Malaysia.
- DESPITE having the Metrobank/Federal Land Group as partner, Toyota plans to bid out its abandoned Bicutan assembly plant. Perfect for a township project, the 6.1-hectare property adjoins the Columbian Motors plant that has been foreclosed by Philippine National Bank.

Heard through the grapevine

THE GOKONGWEI Group intends to keep its multibillion-peso banking relationship with Equitable PCI Bank in the short to medium term, despite retail competitor SM Group having gained a commanding view inside the hotly contested bank.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net, or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com.)

Cautious trading ...

From page B1

al Bank within the month.

BPI Trade said that investors were still awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court on the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law, a crucial tax reform that aims to plug the government's fiscal deficit.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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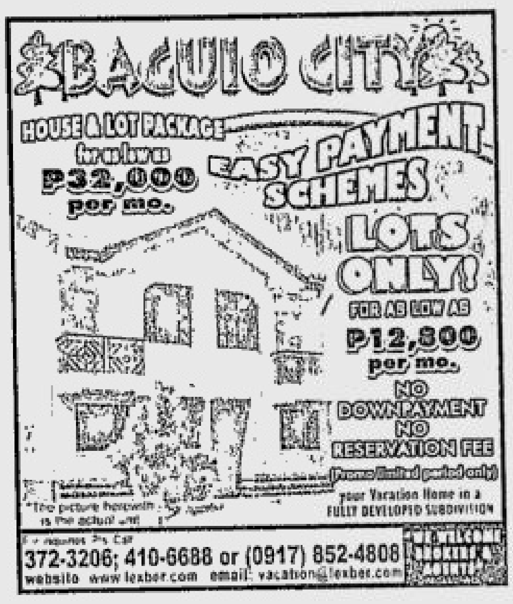

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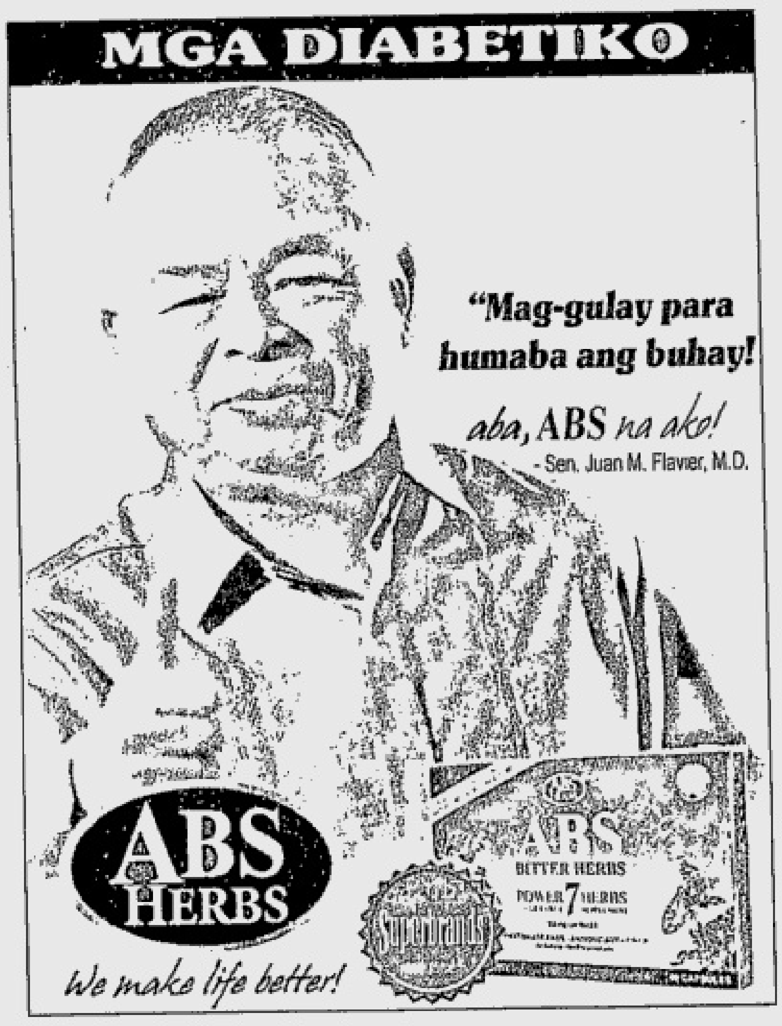

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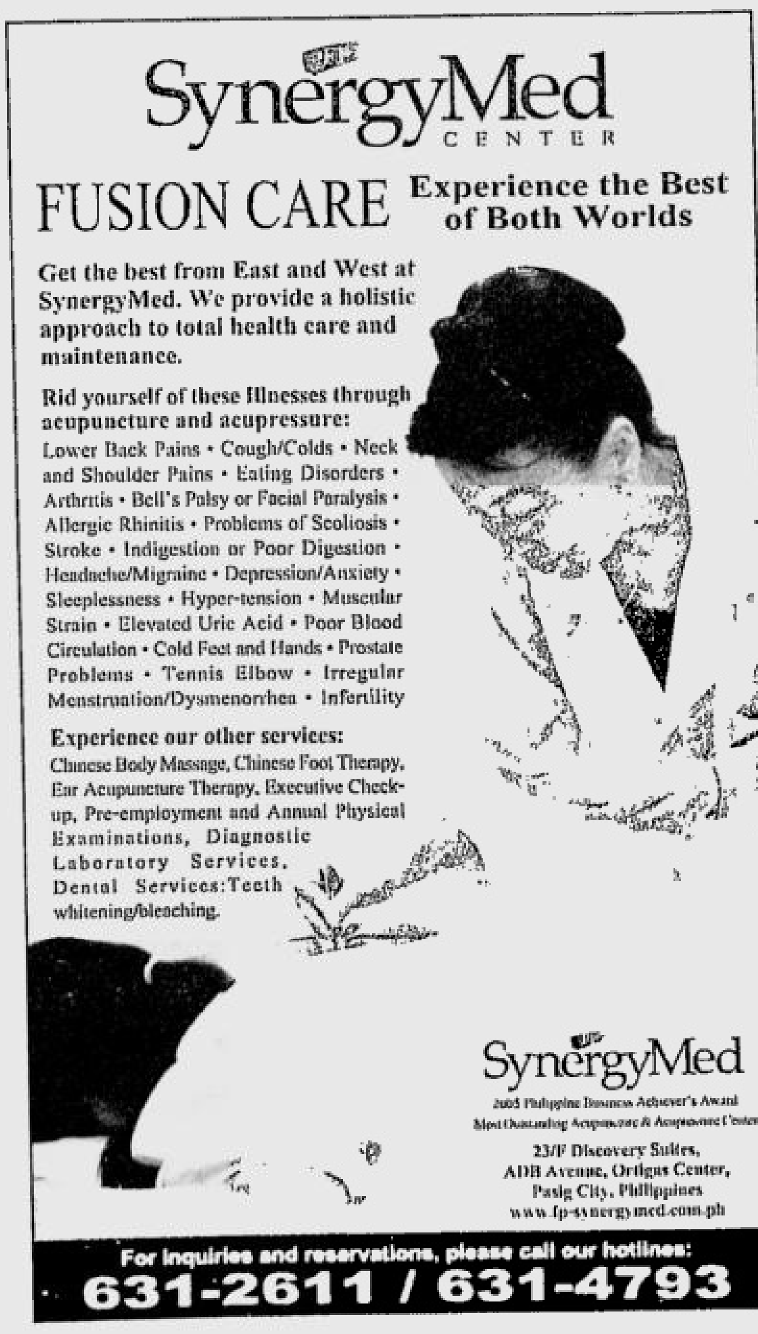

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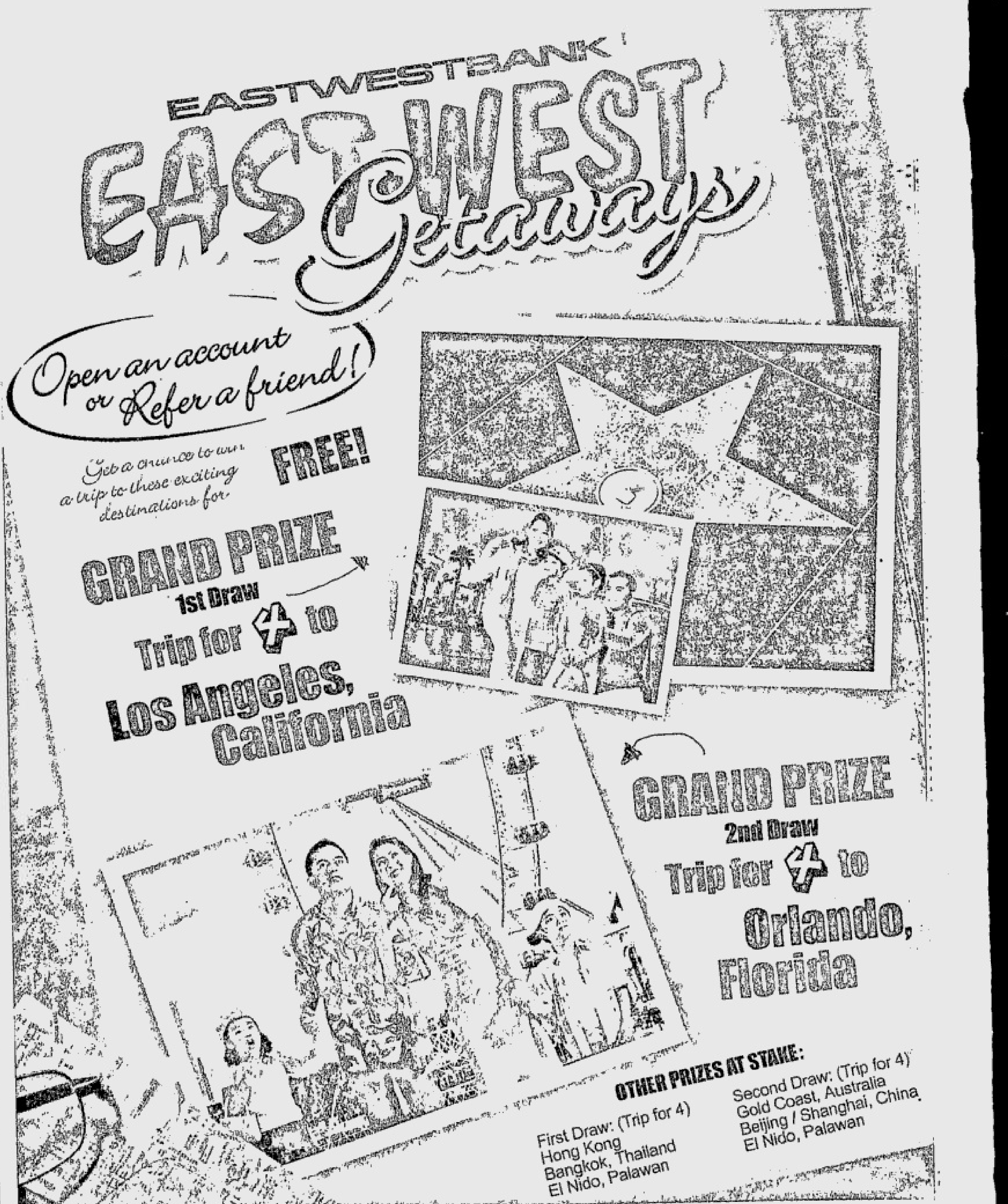

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Sy to acquire more EPCIB shares

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AFTER gobbling up the Go family's 24.76-percent stake in Equitable PCIBank, retail tycoon Henry Sy is looking to accumulate more shares to get the controlling block needed to eventually merge the country's third biggest lender with his own Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

In an interview with INQUIRER, BDO president Nestor Tan said the SM group wanted to buy the 10-percent stake held by EBC Investments Inc. and the 29 percent owned by the state-owned Social Security System in the bank.

"Whatever we have offered is still on the table," Tan said.

Last Friday, the Sy camp signed an agreement to purchase the Go family's 24.76 percent stake in EPCIBank for P56.50 a share or a sum of P10.2 billion and another 10-percent stake in Equitable Card Network for P600 million.

Prior to the buyout, the SM group already had a 2.5 percent stake in EPCIBank.

Based on BDO's previous offer of P43.50, the SM group was readying a total of P11 billion in cash for two other separate blocks—P8 billion for the SSS stake and P3 billion for the EBCII stake.

If given the chance to push through with an earlier deal with the SSS that was stalled in court, Tan said the SM group was willing to renegotiate the price.

Asked on Friday whether the SSS was still keen on selling its stake, SSS president Corazon dela Paz said: "If we see an opportunity to make more money for our members, we'll make the transaction with advice from informed sources so we can move forward."

GSIS president Winston Garcia, for his part, said the pension fund would consider selling out only if given an offer above its acquisition cost of P92 a share.

Tan said the SM group would take up more than half of the 24.76-percent stake to be unloaded by the Gos, while the rest would be bought by BDO.

The acquisition would be funded by the group's internal funds, he added.

Piltel projects ₱7-B profit

By Clarissa S. Batino

PILIPINO Telephone Corp., now the country's second most profitable phone company, has raised its net income projection this year from P5 billion to P7 billion following its strong performance in the first half, its top official said.

"I think P7 billion (in profit this year) is not too difficult," said Napoleon Nazareno, president of Piltel, its parent firm, Smart Communications Inc. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Piltel officials were originally looking at an almost flat profit growth for the company this year on account of a volatile foreign exchange rate.

The view changed after it posted a net profit of P4.6 billion in the first half, up 600 percent against P659 million in the same period last year.

The six-month earnings almost matched its full-year net income last year of P4.9 billion.

The company's first semester net earnings surpassed that of Globe Telecom Inc.'s P4.2 billion.

Analysts are now looking at a full-year profit of between P8 and P9 billion for the joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom against an original outlook of P12 billion.

Minus extraordinary gains from foreign exchange, however, the listed phone subsidiary of Smart netted almost P4 billion.

Of that, P2.5 billion came during the second quarter.

Piltel's mobile phone brand Talk 'N Text accounted for 93 percent of the company's revenue.

Talk 'N Text ended the first semester with five million subscribers while the fixed-line business had 45,593 customers.

SMC eyes more Berri shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is studying the possibility of acquiring the remaining 49 percent of Australian juice maker Berri Ltd., sources said.

San Miguel has the option to purchase the 49 percent in Berri in January 2006, after acquiring 51 percent.

INQUIRER sources said that San Miguel was still studying the price the conglomerate was willing to pay for the shares.

The combined distribution channels of Berri and San Miguel's recently acquired Australian dairy National Foods should provide savings to the company, estimated at $30 million, Spencer White, Merrill Lynch Hong Kong strategist said separately.

Both brands may also be introduced to Singapore and other Asian countries, INQUIRER sources also confirmed.

San Miguel's aggressive expansion into foreign markets however comes at a price.

Standard & Poor's credit analyst Nancy Koh observed that San Miguel's debt is expected to rise substantially to P146 billion ($2.6 billion) by the end of 2005, from P61 billion at year-end 2004.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 5, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	33	30	32	1,724,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49	49.5	1,047,900
China Banking Corp.	770	770	765	765	2,580
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.57	0.54	0.56	1,520,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51.5	56	51.5	54.5	2,224,200
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	10,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	469,700
Philippine National Bank	46	46	46	46	95,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	20,000
Security Bank Corp.	31	32	31	32	5,084,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30.5	30	30.5	19,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2870	2900	2870	2900	1,260
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.04	1,165,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2050	2070	2050	2070	2,800
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	53,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	2,483,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	810	800	805	119,810
Ipeople Inc.	3	3	2.95	2.95	225,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.048	0.046	0.048	1,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.0575	36,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2	2	2	2	33,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	3	2.85	2.9	6,524,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1625	1635	1625	1635	120,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	220,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	20,500,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	14.75	14.75	142,000
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	25.5	24.75	24.75	558,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.7	10,461,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	2,845,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	68,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	408,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3.05	3	3	349,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	5,000
Supercity Rlty Dev. Corp.	-	-	-	-	-
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	60,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	31.5	31	31	33,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	69	69.5	69	69.5	72,900
San Miguel Corp. B	99.5	100	99	100	110,600
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	72,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5	5	5	5	5,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	305	305	297.5	297.5	127,310
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.56	0.62	0.56	0.57	36,460,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	16,003,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	3,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2	1.98	1.98	113,000
APC Group, Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	169,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	90,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	18,500
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,576,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	410,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	270,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	870,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.85	969,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	500,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	712,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	360,200
House of Investments Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.88	360,000
Ionics Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	170,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	702,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.82	401,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.35	1.35	3,661,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	7,410,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	600,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.26	0.32	0.26	0.28	5,060,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	214	222	214	222	1,423,330
South China Resources Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	20,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.175	4,830,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.13	1,300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	320,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.5	1.58	144,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	1,250,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.9	6.9	5.5	5.5	4,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	344,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	642,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series H	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	34,000
Far Eastern University	510	510	510	510	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	3,876,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	190,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	5,360,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	2,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	533,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	70,000
City & Land Developers	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	6,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	110,000
SM Development Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	4,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.2	7,547,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. A	0.9	1	0.9	0.95	130,000
Apex Mining Co., Inc. B	0.9	0.95	0.9	0.95	240,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	26,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	46,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	18,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	330,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	264,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Mln. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Mln. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.95	4	3.85	3.85	791,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	650,000

CURRENCIES

August 7, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.807624	1.000000	55.9250
Japan	Yen	0.007255	0.008983	0.5024
United Kingdom	Pound	1.438055	1.780600	99.5801
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103911	0.128662	7.1954
Switzerland	Franc	0.641888	0.794786	44.4484
Canada	Dollar	0.665313	0.823791	46.0705
Singapore	Dollar	0.488936	0.605400	33.8570
Australia	Dollar	0.624130	0.772798	43.2187
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.142353	2.652661	148.3501
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.215361	0.266660	14.9130
Brunei	Dollar	0.487460	0.603573	33.7548
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000103	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019641	0.024319	1.3600
UAE	Dirham	0.219893	0.272272	15.2268
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.238200	69.2463
India	Rupee	0.018596	0.023026	1.2877
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215252	0.266525	14.9054
New Zealand	Dollar	0.558059	0.690989	38.6436
Korea	Won	0.000799	0.000989	0.0553
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025437	0.031496	1.7614

Budget deficit . . .

From page B1

deficit was P31 billion less than the P98.5-billion target for the period at P67.5 billion.

But preliminary reports said the BIR missed its collection target for July by about 20 percent, so far generating only P37 billion compared with the target of P46 billion. The final report on the BIR collection is expected to be released in the second week of August.

Aside from a weak revenue-collection performance in July, the delay in the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law was also seen to have influenced the government in adjusting its deficit projection.

The DOF earlier said the VAT law was estimated to generate at least P28 billion in the second half of the year.

However, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on the VAT's implementation last July 1.

The high tribunal has yet to issue a decision whether or not to uphold the constitutionality of the VAT, but economic officials are hoping the suspension would be lifted this month.

The P180-billion deficit target will result from the expected P783.16 billion in revenues and P963.156 billion in expenditures.

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Alabang Country Club A	1,100,000	-
Alta Vista Corp.	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	Pls. Call	530,000
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	-	140,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pls. Call	-
Club Filipino	Pls. Call	-
Eagleridge A/C**	190,000/Pls. Call**	150,000
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Everest	65,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	130,000/200,000*	-
Luisita Golf	350,000	-
Manila Golf Corporate	11,500,000	-
Manila Golf Individual	11,400,000	-
Manila Polo	2,250,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	370,000	650,000*
Makati Sports Club	200,000	170,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	-
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	230,000	180,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*/300,000**	150,000/350,000**
Puerto Azul	Pls. Call	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/230,000**	-
Riviera Sports	45,000	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	290,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,250,000/1,500,000*	1,100,000
The Palms Country Club	650,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	Pls. Call	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	200,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	120,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,500,000	-

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Anvaya Cove		please call
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Canlubang Golf Club	500K	450K
Canyon Woods	125K	-
Capitol Hills "A"	80K	
Cebu Sports City	340K	
Celebrity Sports Club	115K	
Club Filipino	80K	
Club Punta Fuego		400K
Eagleridge Golf Club "A"	190K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "B"	200K	
Forest Hills Golf Club (Ind.)	100K	-
Forest Hills Golf Club (Corp.)	200K	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	180K	
Manila Golf Club (Corp.)*	please call	please call
Manila Golf Club (Ind.)	please call	please call
Manila Polo Club	2.2M	please call
Manila Southwoods "A"		350K
Mimosa Ind.	150K	
Mt. Malarayat "B"	–	200K
Mt. Malarayat "C"		300K
Palms Country Club	550K	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	150K	-
Rockwell Club	200K	-
Splendido	please call	
Spa & Lodge		400K
Sta. Elena Golf Club "A"	1.2M	
Sta. Elena Golf Club "B"		1.5M
Tagaytay Higlands Golf	750K	-
Tagaytay Midlands Golf	650K	
Tower Club (Ind.)	300K	
Valley Golf Club		200K
Wack Wack Golf Club	6.5M	6.2 All In

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Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	1,075,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	525,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	70,000
Camp John Hay	170,000	-
Canlubang	500,000	400,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,350,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	-
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Forest Hills "A"	120,000	100,000
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Luisita Golf	350,000	300,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	180,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	380,000	350,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	740,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	400,000	300,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	130,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	330,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	230,000	170,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	300,000	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "B"	280,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	135,000
Spa & Lodge	600,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	1,450,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	330,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	663,000	600,000
The Palms Country Club	530,000	590,000
Tower Club	240,000	-
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	230,000	200,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	Please Call

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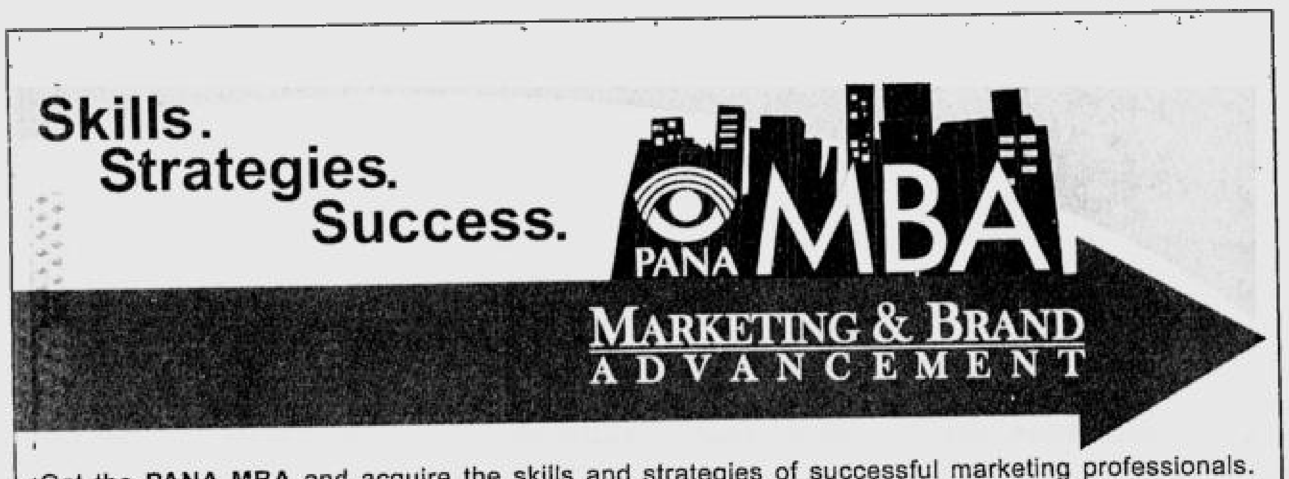

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DAY 1: AUGUST 18, 2005 - Thursday

Keynote Speech: *Tomorrow's Breed of Filipino Marketing and Brand Leaders - Starting Young and Starting Right*
Speaker: Mr. Wilfred Steven Uytengsu
President & COO
Alaska Milk Corporation

SESSION 1: RESEARCH
- *Making the Most out of your Brand*
Speaker: Mr. Shivkumar Moulee
Director, Marketing Solutions
Millward Brown Asia Pacific
- *Pinoy Exposed! Profiles of the Filipino consumer revealed through consumer research*
Speaker: Ms. Feddie Magpantay
Executive Director, AC Nielsen Philippines

SESSION 2: PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
- *The Fresh Squeeze: Keep things juicy through Marketing Innovations that work*
Speaker: Mr. Benjie Yap
Marketing Manager - Home Care and Oral Care
Unilever Philippines
- *The Call of Innovation: Enhancing Technologies that Create New Consumer Lifestyles*
Speaker : Mr. Sidharth Singh
Head of Marketing Services for Customer and Market Operations, Nokia Philippines

SESSION 3: SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
- *Understanding the Supply Chain Management Principles that Can Make or Break Your Marketing Plan*
Speaker: Mr. Noel Bautista
Managing Director
IDS Logistics

DAY 2: AUGUST 19, 2005 - Friday

SESSION 3: SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (CONTINUATION)
- *Links in the Chain: The Key Performance Indicators for Effective Supply Chain Management*
Speaker: Mr. Robert Vallender
Senior Vice President, Supply Chain Management
Nestle Philippines

SESSION 4: PRODUCT POSITIONING
- *Standing Out: Establishing your Own Brand Identity in a Market of Mixed Images and Messages*
Speaker: Ms. Pauline Lao
Country Media Manager
Procter & Gamble Philippines
- *Mega-Brands: How Strong Product Positioning Cements a Brand's Standing in a Competitive Market*
Speaker: Ms. Gina Rose Doblos
Associate Marketing Director
Wyeth Philippines

SESSION 5: MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS
- *Brand Speak: Effective Strategic Planning That Gets Your Message Across*
Speaker: Mr. Nandy Villar
Vice President for Strategic Planning
McCann Erickson Philippines
- *Creative Inspiration: How to Help your Agency Deliver Creative Work that Sells*
Speaker: Mr. Jimmy Santiago
Managing Partner
TBWA-Santiago, Mangada, Puno
- *Where's the Big Idea: Recognizing Good Creative Strategies and Executions*
Speaker: Mr. Raul Castro
Executive Creative Director, LOWE Worldwide

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Why the trade deficit was understated

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

LAST week's news that government statisticians have made a massive adjustment to the trade statistics of the last three years provoked various reactions, both warranted and unwarranted. The 2004 trade deficit--i.e. the excess of imports over exports--was updated to $4.36 billion from the previously reported $713 million, or more than six times the original figure. The 2003 deficit was revised to $4.24 billion from $1.27 billion, or 3.3 times the original. And the 2002 the trade deficit was revised to $4.03 billion from $218 million, or a whopping 18.5 times the earlier reported figure.

The news promptly raised two types of concerns. First, how does this affect the credibility and reliability of government economic statistics? Had the government been misleading us into thinking that our trade balance had been much better than it actually was? Second, how does this affect the actual state of the economy? Is the health and stability of the economy actually worse than it appears? Does this provide even more ammunition for government critics and political oppositionists to call for a change in leadership?

This prompted me to do some quick research on the matter by talking to the people most directly concerned. Let me say at the outset that we can all rest easy, because this announced adjustment ultimately represents good news for all of us. Here's the full story.

Why the adjustment

Newly appointed Deputy Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and fellow economist Diwa Guinigundo tells me that the adjustment had its origins three years ago. At that time, government economists from BSP, Neda, DOF and DTI decided to look closely into a persistent seeming inconsistency in the external economic data. They were troubled at how the data appeared to show too much capital flight, showing up as "short term capital outflows" in the BSP's balance-of-payments accounts. At the same time, they were suspicious about how export earnings were not being matched by enough imports, resulting in trade balance figures that even our economic managers felt was too good to be true.

The import numbers appeared too low to them because they knew our single biggest export earner is electronic components, accounting for about two-thirds of our export earnings. But they also knew that inputs for these products are all imported, and that the only added value the domestic economy contributes to these exports is labor for assembling the components into chips or circuit boards. Thus, they felt that there must be something wrong with the trade data reported by the National Statistics Office (NSO). A technical task force that included the above agencies and NSO was formed to look more closely into the matter.

In-company transactions

Through a firm-level survey of major export sectors, the task force found that when multinational electronics firms' mother companies abroad send electronic components to them for further assembly and subsequent re-export to the mother unit or another sister unit, the value of imported components do not get reported to NSO. But the full value of the exported product does.

With the new information unearthed with this special survey, an upward adjustment in imports had to be made, leading to the massive revisions recently reported. National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) secretary general Romulo Virola tells me that the multinational companies concerned have expressed reluctance to undergo the same survey every year henceforth. But government economists and statisticians are making sure these intra-company import transactions are captured henceforth. Apart from these previously unrecorded import transactions, previously unrecorded export transactions from companies in the Subic free port are now also incorporated in the corrected trade accounts. Both Guinigundo and Virola tell me that the latest data reporting a $71 million trade deficit for May 2005 now incorporates the appropriate correction on the data.

The good news

Even before talking to Guinigundo and Virola, I knew the "missing imports" must have already been in the accounts somewhere. Thus, the data adjustment itself could not have any real impact on the economy. Economic theory holds that the current account gap (i.e. the gap between current foreign outflows and inflows) is intimately related to the fiscal gap (between government expenditures and revenues), and the gap between investments and domestic savings in the economy. With this inherent property that provides a way of cross-checking across the measured gaps, the economic accounts cannot possibly balance with an error as large as $3 billion, or more than P165 billion--unless it was showing up in unusually large entries in the "errors in omissions" line of the accounts. But it was not. Errors and omissions continued to be below 1 percent of total value of trade (exports plus imports), says Guinigundo, when up to 5 percent is considered acceptable internationally. It was, instead, showing up as higher short-term capital outflows in the accounts, making it look like there was more capital flight than there really was in 2002-2004. That's one good news coming out of this clarification of the data.

All this tells also us that our government economists and statisti

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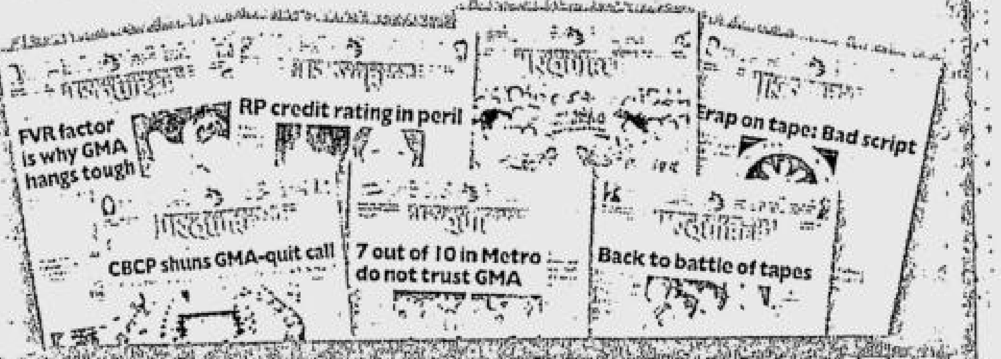
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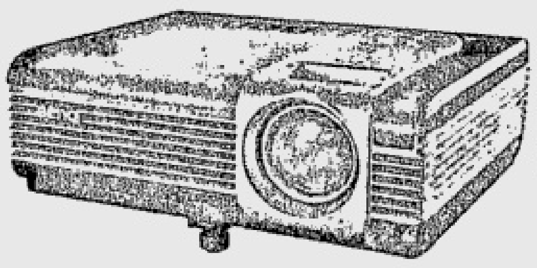

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RP dives into telecommuting

By Joey G. Alarilla
Contributor

AS telecommuting gains acceptance in the workplace, companies are now reaching the stage where managers have to find a way to make the people who physically work in the office as productive as the employees who telecommute, according to an official of business communication applications provider Avaya Inc.

"In the beginning, what managers were most concerned with was how to exercise control over their employees who work remotely. The second question was how do you measure productivity," M-H. Carolyn Nguyen, director of Avaya Mobility Strategy of Avaya UK Limited, said in a press briefing.

She acknowledged that sometimes managers have higher expectations when their employees telecommute, since mobility allows people to work wherever they go and stay in touch with the office at all times.

This, however, only shows how telecommuting is increasingly being seen as a competitive advantage by companies.

Nguyen said the key thing is for employees to strike the right work/life balance, which is precisely what telecommuting has made possible. They have to guard against the tendency for the lines between work and home to blur, as telecommuters might find themselves working even longer hours than they would in the office.

Still, increased productivity and a healthier work/life balance have been cited as the key reasons managers are embracing telecommuting. Telecommuting may have been a novelty among Philippine companies just a few years ago, but 75 percent of Filipino managers now say they trust their employees to work remotely.

The figures for the Philippines are part of the IDC 2005 Asia Pacific Business Mobility Survey commissioned by business communications applications provider Avaya Inc., which showed that the region's top decision makers are overwhelmingly supporting telecommuting. Based on the survey conducted among 2,000 business and technology decision makers in 11 countries, over 70 percent of Asia Pacific managers said they would trust their employees to telecommute. Executives from 222 companies in the Philippines participated in the survey, according to figures from Avaya Philippines.

Asked if the positive response among Philippine companies to telecommuting came as a surprise, Edgar T. Doctolero, country manager of Avaya Philippines Inc., told Infotech: "That's what we are seeing, especially in the financial services market, and also in the contact center industry. For them, increasing competition in the market has made telecommuting an important means for increasing productivity in the sales force. We are seeing a changing attitude toward telecommuting."

Nguyen added that managers are beginning to realize that telecommuting allows the company to reduce costs. This includes the cost of office space and infrastructure. For instance, she cited how many companies are outsourcing part of their operations to call centers, which are often staffed by customer service agents who work from home.

"Another advantage of telecommuting is employee retention. Employees are less likely to leave the company because they are a lot happier with their work/life balance," she said.

Technology, of course, is one of the enablers of this work/life balance, as Nguyen stressed the need for business communications solutions that allow telecommuters unified access to their files, business correspondence and other vital data, whether they are in the office, out in the field, or in their homes.

Avaya, for instance, is a leading provider of enterprise IP telephony solutions and is working with Nokia for convergent solutions that bridge the gap between fixed and mobile infrastructure in the enterprise.

Avaya and Research in Motion are also working together for IP telephony solutions on the BlackBerry mobile device.

With these business mobility solutions, Avaya aims to allow managers to easily interact with telecommuting employees and monitor performance, while making the office transactions transparent to customers and colleagues—meaning geographical location will not even have an effect on the speed of communication and quality of work.

"In the end, managers will have to decide how they will measure performance, but we make sure they will have the right tools."

Text scams targeting OFWs, foreign nationals

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

LYDIA dela Torre, 51, wept as she told reporters how she was duped into spending her hard-earned money after falling prey to a short messaging service (SMS) or text-based scam perpetrated by criminal syndicates in the Philippines.

A resident of La Paz, Iloilo, Dela Torre was at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas this week to claim the P950,000 she supposedly won in a raffle. But she never knew that she was the latest victim of a text scam, which often tricks recipients into giving away their money in exchange for information on how to claim their winnings in a supposed raffle draw by a certain government agency or foundation.

In her case, Dela Torre said, a supposed lawyer named William Gomez sent her a text message, claiming she won second prize in a raffle on June 9, 2005.

She immediately called the sender of the text message, and was instructed to send 14 PIN codes of P300 worth of pre-paid card credits to a certain mobile number. After doing so, she was asked to go to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank) to claim her prize, only to find out this week that she was duped.

Text scams have been victimizing Filipinos since 1999, according to the National Bureau of Investigation. But lately, criminal syndicates operating text-based scams are increasingly targeting overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and foreign nationals, the Anti-Money Laundering Council said on Thursday.

The NBI said that the modus operandi of text scam operators has also evolved.

"We suspect that people behind text scams are part of a criminal syndicate now victimizing OFWs and foreign nationals," Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) head Vicente Aquino told reporters at a briefing.

Aquino added that government's recent campaign to go after the people behind text scams has only shifted the attention to the OFWs.

"We have tightened the noose, so to speak against operators, of text scams. So they are now targeting OFWs."

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. remarked that while there has been a noticeable decline in the number of text scam-related complaints received by the bank, there has been an evident increase of complaints from OFWs.

According to Palmer Mallari, National Bureau of Investigation supervising agent, the law enforcement agency has received numerous complaints but has caught only a handful of text scam operators.

Law enforcement is more "reactive" than progressive in arresting this crime, he said. "In most cases, greedy text fraudsters were the ones arrested. They usually use fictitious names to open bank accounts and buy prepaid numbers to start going after intended victims. So the chances of catching them are very slim," Mallari told Infotech.

He added that the NBI can move only after complaints are filed with the law enforcement agency.

Text scam operators have used various agencies like the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Department of Trade and Industry, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and lately the PGMA Foundation, Smart and Globe, to perpetrate text scams, Mallari said.

Text scams usually inform recipients that they have won a raffle but need to deposit a certain amount of money to a certain bank account provided by the fraudster. Text scam operators randomly pick victims to dupe.

Mallari said that one way they pick their victims is to call random numbers. The scam begins once they get an answer.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said several cases have been filed against text scam operators caught in Cebu City, Pasig, and other areas, but no one has yet gone to jail.

Mallari suggested that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or AMLC give law enforcement the power to pry open bank accounts supplied by text scam operators.

Law enforcement can look into the bank accounts only after a petition is filed by the AMLC and the Solicitor General, he said, noting that most operators of text scams are caught by police through entrapment operations.

Meanwhile, Aquino estimated that "millions of pesos" have been lost to text scams.

Alfonso Penaco, BSP director of the Office of Special Investigation, said education is crucial in getting rid of them. "We urge mobile phone operators to also help us in this campaign," Penaco said.

The National Telecommunications Commission, meanwhile, said it has blocked 161 mobile phone numbers suspected to have been used for text scams as of June 2005.

"I think poverty, ignorance and gullibility have also contributed to the increase in text scam victims. So it is important to educate people on how to avoid being victims of it," added Aquino.

BSP Governor Tetangco reminded the public not to be duped by text scams.

"For the record, the BSP does not have raffles. If you won a raffle, don't you think you're the one that should be given the money and not you giving your own?" he said.

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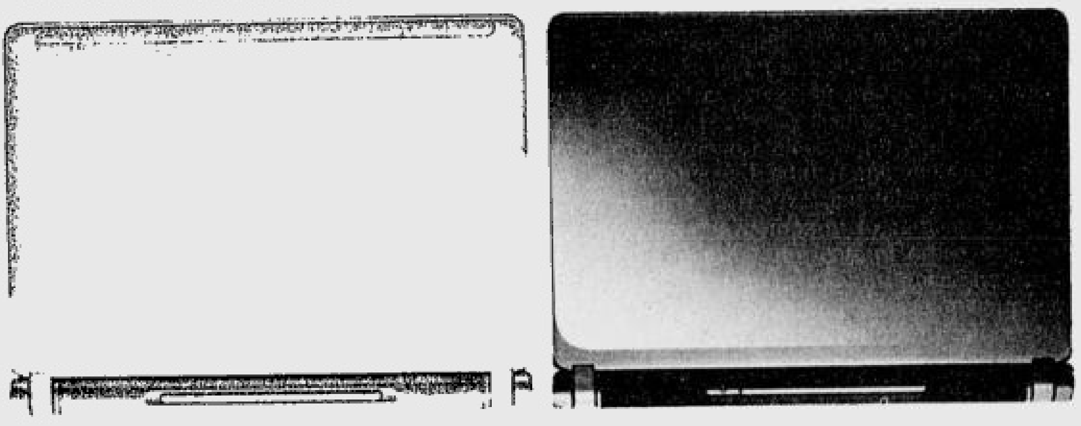

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Memo to BSP Gov. Tetangco

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

NOW THAT you have warmed your seat, kindly find time to review the bancassurance rules under Circulars 357 and 401.

Under these circulars, universal and commercial banks are allowed to provide spaces in head and branch offices in which insurance companies can sell certain life and non-life policies, subject to the rules of the Insurance Commission on sales agencies.

As a rule, I welcome any marketing set-up that will help spread the benefits of insurance to as wide an area as possible.

However, the bancassurance rules require that the insurance company should be an affiliate or a subsidiary.

An affiliate is a company where at least 5 percent, but not more that 50 percent of the voting stock is owned or controlled by the bank.

A subsidiary is an insurance company where more than 50 percent of the voting stock is owned or controlled by the bank.

As far as I know, most of the insurance companies connected with the banks are subsidiaries.

This cross ownership places the bank in the horns of a terrible conflict of interest, especially when the policy is issued as a pre-condition to granting a loan.

Let us say a depositor mortgages his house to finance some repairs. The loan is approved, but the fire insurance policy has to be taken from the subsidiary insurance company.

Nowadays, fire insurance is the most competitive line in the country.

Since trade liberalization ten years ago, the price of fire insurance has plummeted to as much as one fifth what is used to be.

And the price is still dropping, and the coverage widening.

When the bank requires that the fire insurance policy be bought from the subsidiary, the borrower is deprived of the benefit of buying in a free and open market.

In effect, the bank consigns the borrower to buy the policy from a monopoly. As a result, the premium could be too high, not to mention that the coverage may be limited.

Then, let us say that, while the repairs are going on, a carpenter throws a lighted cigarette onto some wood shavings. The ensuring fire razes the house to the ground. The borrower cannot accept the amount of the claim as computed by the claims adjuster.

What is the stand of the bank? The bank should agree with the client/borrower, but if the bank does, it is working against its subsidiary's interest.

If the bank agrees with the subsidiary, the loan repayment may be imperiled.

If the bank does not have any connection whatsoever with the insurance company, then the bank can apply its tremendous clout to have the claim paid as the borrower wants it to be paid.

Playing hardball, the bank can even threaten to blacklist the company and browbeat the company to submission.

Finally, if the borrower is free to choose his insurer, he probably will buy his fire insurance policy from an agent or broker.

In case of a sticky claim such as the one I just described, the agent or broker also applies his clout on the insurance company.

Bancassurance is a European practice. In the US, conflicts of interests are avoided. Some states prohibit a bank from setting up an insurance agency in a town with at least 5,000 inhabitants.

Most states prohibit any lender of money from specifying the company, the broker or agent that will handle the insurance policy required under a loan agreement.

My suggestion is to annul Circulars 357 and 401. The banks should be asked to divest from insurance companies in, say, two years. Then, the banks should be prohibited from specifying the insurance company, broker or agent that will handle the insurance required under a loan agreement.

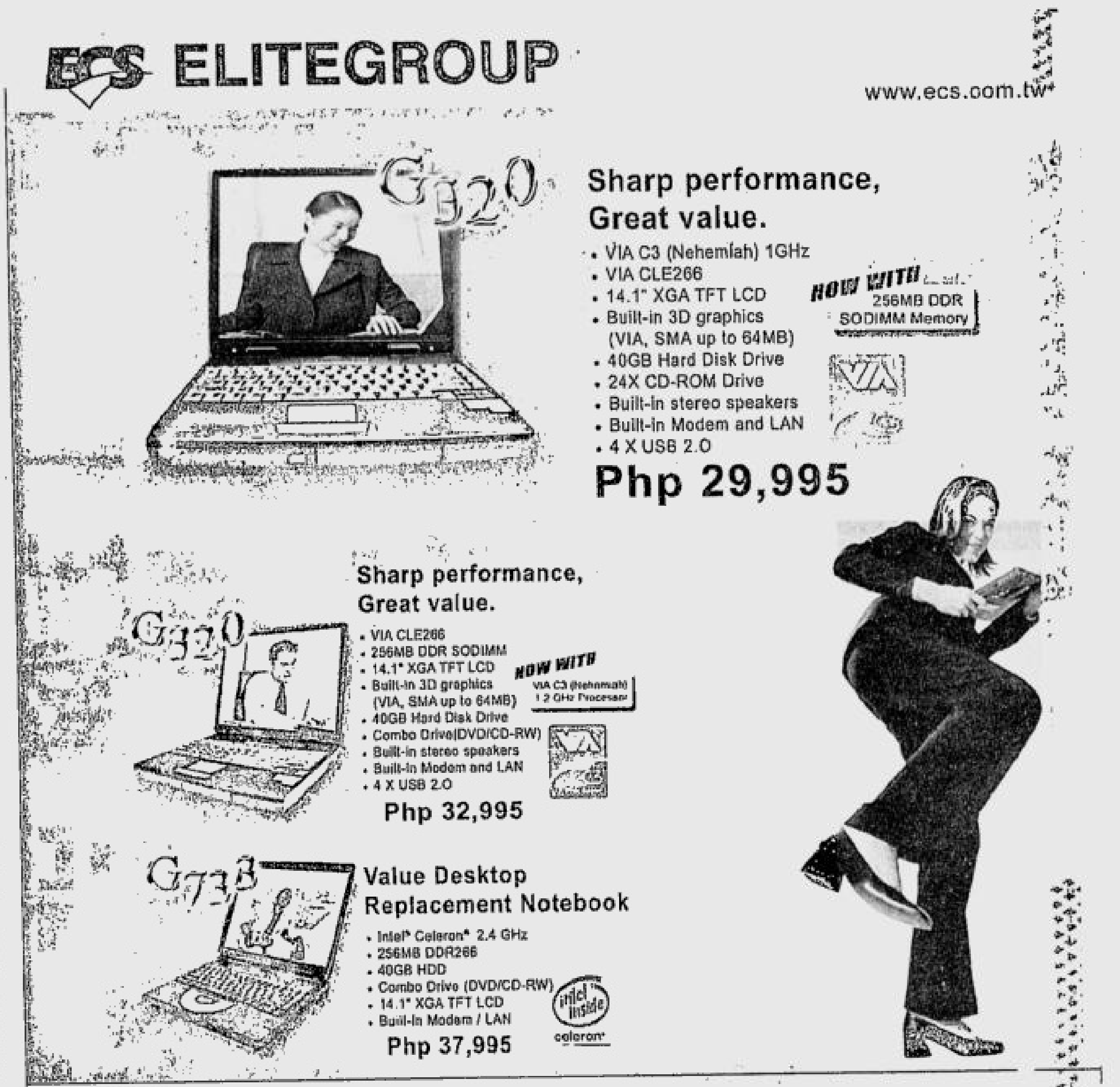
Once and for all, the Bangko Sentral should think of the interest of the vulnerable borrower over and above the powerful banking industry.

Investing in vocational education...

From page B2

human resource is one of them.

(Joji Ilagan-Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET; Mindanao Rep, Export Development Council and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)



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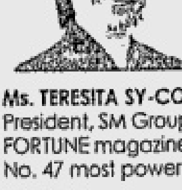

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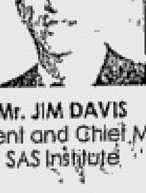

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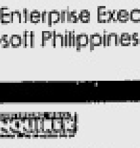

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SECURING THE FUTURE CONSIDERING GLOBAL TRENDS	**Perry Mogar,** Area Vice-President for Southeast Asia Avon Cosmetics, Inc.
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In Honda Bay, rich ecosystem beckons

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATE CITIZEN

PUERTO Princesa, Palawan—Like most areas in this province, dubbed the country's last ecological frontier, Honda Bay is blessed with extensive coral reefs where thousands of fish and larger marine animals, such as turtles, sea cows and whale sharks, make their home.

It also nurtures different species of seagrass and mangroves, referred to as "nurseries of the sea" because so many fish and shellfish are born and reared in these food-rich environments.

But despite having so much vital and diverse resources, not a lot is known about the plants and animals that form part of Honda Bay's rich ecosystem.

What the locals do know is that Honda Bay provides the fish they need to survive. That's all.

Fortunately, Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort, one of the most popular resorts in Honda Bay, is working to fill in the huge knowledge gap through its Dos Palmas Research Center.

Since the center opened last year, the research center has been collecting data on the 10 species of sea grass around the island, mangroves covering three hectares, various species of plankton and the expansive coral reefs that make Dos Palmas a popular diving site.

Dos Palmas took the research work to another level when management signed an agreement with the Western Philippines University in Puerto Princesa, allowing students to use the resort's facilities while they conduct research around the island.

Dos Palmas converted one of its guest rooms into a research area filled with books, maps, and a computer with Internet access that the students can freely use.

Alexis Principe, research coordinator of the Dos Palmas Research Center, said in an interview that the students have been doing monitoring studies around the island to see what species of fish, shells and other organisms are abundant at certain times of the year.

Some research has also been done on the different bird species that come to the island.

It was estimated that Dos Palmas hosts about 70 kinds of birds, of which 40 migrate from the cold of Japan and China. These include herons, egrets, frigates and bitterns.

Principe said that by having a better understanding of the Honda Bay ecosystem, the community would realize how their activities would impact on the environment.

He said Dos Palmas was an ideal site to conduct research because of its ecosystem, considered one of the most diverse in Honda Bay.

From the Puerto Princesa port, Arreceffi Island is about 45 minutes away by boat—one of the farthest of the 12 islands of Honda Bay.

It covers 20.8817 hectares, of which 60,000 square meters are developed into the resort. The rest are mangroves and coral reefs. Seagrass meadows are found among the roots of the mangroves and surround most of the island.

From the time Dos Palmas management took over in 1997, dynamite fishing has been prohibited, giving the ecosystem time to recover.

Since then, the coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove forests have been kept in good condition. The island even has more seagrass species than the whole of Thailand with eight species, and Japan with seven.

The fertile seagrass explains the frequent sightings of *dugong* or sea cows in the area, as these shy, endangered animals feed on seagrass.

Arreceffi Island is also said to have the highest coral cover in Honda Bay, according to the Research and Ecological survey conducted in 2001. Thus, schools of jacks, snappers and barracudas are abundant in the area.

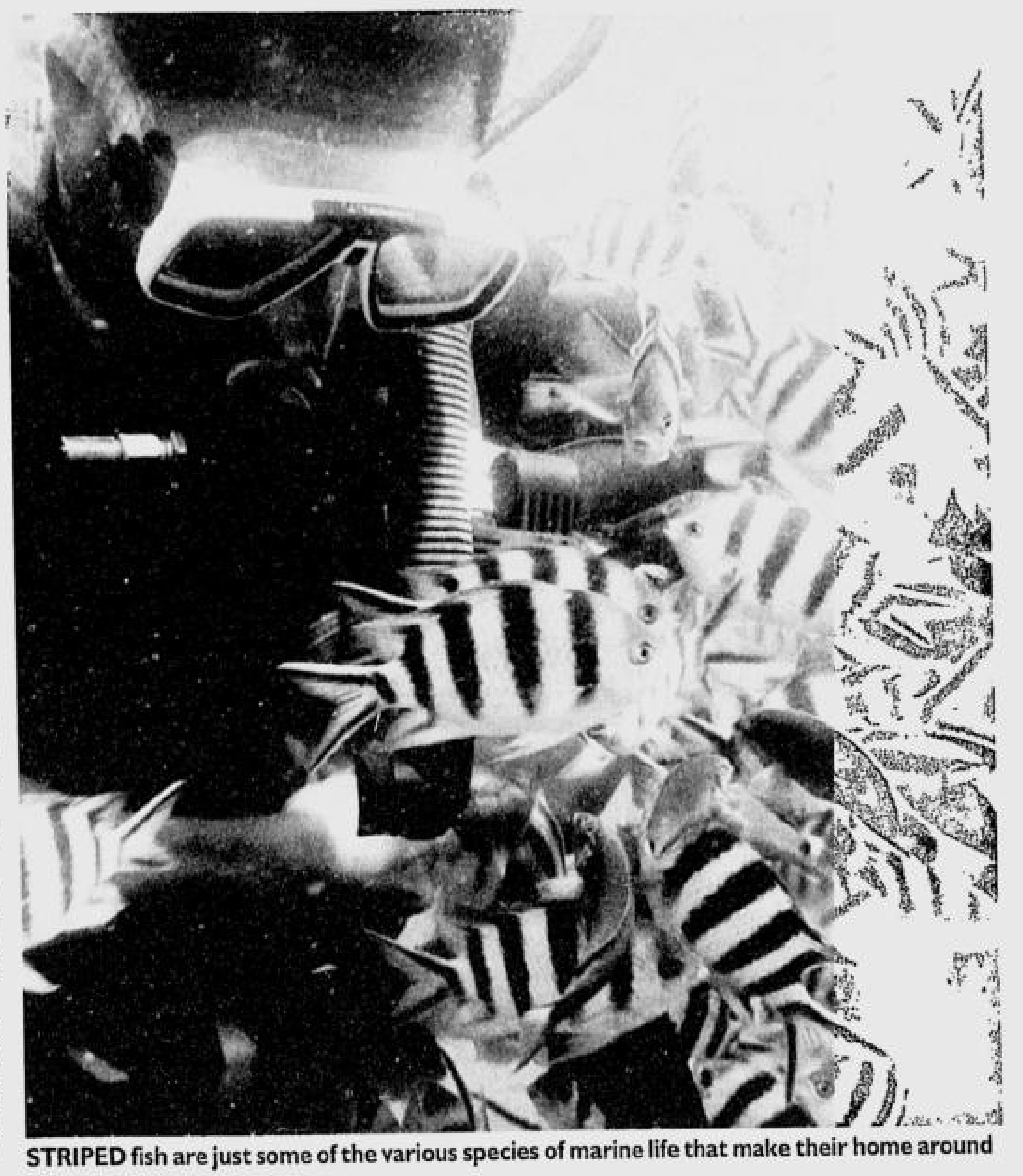
Even juvenile sharks have been observed searching for food in the shallow coral reef areas and seagrass beds.

Arreceffi Island, thus, provides a natural laboratory for extensive research. According to Principe, the research center's vision is to contribute to the advancement of marine biology by making the island the center for research in this part of the Philippines.

The center will be open not just to students, but to scientists as well.

Principe said there were plans to produce an environmental guidebook to provide guests a better idea of what the island has to offer, and the natural resources that the island protects.

"Hopefully by next year, guests who come here will go back with more than just the experience of the resort," he said. "They will go home with more knowledge about the environment."



STRIPED fish are just some of the various species of marine life that make their home around the resort.

WESTERN Philippines University students regularly conduct research around the Dos Palmas Arreceffi Resort (right), which has recently set up a marine research center.

US banks to fund development of renewable energy resources

By Abigail L. Ho

UNMINDFUL of the political uncertainty facing the country, the United States Bank Corp. and eight other banks have agreed to provide funding for the development of renewable energy resources and downstream natural gas industry.

According to Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya, the memorandum of understanding cementing the commitment is now being drafted for possible signing in New York next month, possibly with President Macapagal-Arroyo as one of the witnesses.

"Amid the downgrade, they continue to show interest in the country and in developing its renewable energy and natural gas potentials," Abaya told the INQUIRER.

He said US Bank Corp. would syndicate eight other banks to raise the required funds for the development of the country's renewable energy resources, particularly wind, solar and geothermal.

The group would also provide financing for the downstream natural gas industry. This includes funding for the acquisition of 3,000 compressed natural gas (CNG)-fed buses for the public transport sector, Abaya added.

A good feature of the US syndicated financing, he said, was that it required no collateral.

Provided that a company wanting to avail of the financing had a good track record and a good business plan, he said project financing could be secured fairly easily, as compared with a similar plan being offered by the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Apart from renewable energy and the downstream natural gas sectors, he said talks had also started regarding the US Bank Corp.'s participation in a $2-billion coal-to-fuel project spearheaded by American firm Headwaters Technology Innovations Group.

The planned coal-to-fuel conversion facility, to be established either in Bataan or Batangas, is a commercial-sized plant capable of producing 50,000 to 70,000 barrels of fuel a day, as big as the one HTIG is currently putting up in China, in partnership with the Shenhua Group, China's largest coal company.

US Bank Corp., a sister firm of Bank of America, is among the largest retail banks in the world, with over $200 billion in assets.

With lending-by-texting, SMEs may get greater access to funds

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT hopes to tap the short messaging system, or text messaging feature of cellular phones, to provide greater access to funds for small and medium enterprises and help spur business activities.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said that his department is now in talks with Smart Communications and the Bankers Association of the Philippines on how to make the lending-by-texting scheme work.

"We want to bring funds directly to SMEs and take out additional costs on intermediaries," Favila said.

The trade chief added that telecommunications experts are also drawing up a proposal on how lending may be done through texting.

Favila said the initial idea was to provide qualified borrowers with a code number that would be used to secure the release of cash, which could be claimed at designated offices.

"We are looking at making amounts of between P5,000 to P15,000 made available through text messaging," he said. "But we will make sure that this would not be in conflict with cooperatives."

He said the government, with the help of development and funding agencies, have put up various credit facilities meant to develop SMEs in the country.

These include P175 million from Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp.; P300 million from the Development Bank of the Philippines, and an initial $2.5 million, or about P140 million, from the International Finance Corp.

Also, the Board of Investments announced it had approved a P148-million project that would allow people to borrow money through computer or Internet transfers here and abroad.

The BOI said it granted tax perks and other incentives to Filipino firm Paysetter Solutions, which would provide wireless platforms and services that would cater primarily to the millions of Filipinos abroad.

The project is meant to provide Filipinos overseas "easy and cheap alternatives" in remitting their money to their families back home.

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Mounting liabilities take its toll on pre-need firm

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

COLLEGE Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. reported that its net losses reached P3.53 billion for the quarter ending June 30 as it continued to grapple with mounting liabilities.

On top of its problems, the pre-need firm also lacks the license to sell more education plans.

In an unaudited report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), its capital deficit or its assets less its liabilities for the period ending June 30 was P12.06 billion.

There were no comparative figures available.

Total assets of CAP are pegged at P15.15 billion, of which P6.77 billion are investments in its trust fund or the pool of assets that the pre-need taps to pay liabilities to plan holders.

Its liabilities amounted to P27.211 billion as of June 30, of which P14.3 billion is the actuarial reserve liability (ARL), or how much it owes plan holders.

CAP's total assets may not be enough to meet its obligations. CAP's trust fund deficit, or its total trust fund assets less its ARL, as of June 30 hit P7.6 billion, INQUIRER's computations showed.

CAP is now looking at possible options before a 20-day SEC deadline expires. If it failed to meet the deadline administrative sanctions would be meted out on the beleaguered pre-need giant, sources told the INQUIRER.

One option CAP is considering is the possibility of seeking court intervention to suspend payments.

But while this is an option for the company, such as what its contemporaries Pacific Plans Inc. and Platinum Plans Philippines Inc. have done, "it is not the preferred course of action," a source in the company said. "Paramount to our decision is the effect on [our] plan holders."

A government official said that CAP might not be able to secure the court's permission to undergo rehabilitation because of a stumbling block—the company has not been issued a dealer license which prevented it from reviving its business at this time.

Adding to the firm's woes, the Social Security System (SSS) is not inclined to lend to CAP, expressing reservations over the troubled pre-need firm's credit and profitability record, the government source said.

The loan was to help settle claims of plan holders and was suggested by House committee on economic affairs chair and Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, the source said.

Some 80 percent of CAP's more than 780,000 plan holders are SSS members, the source added.

Around 150,000 of these plan holders will avail of their plans this year. The estimated requirement CAP has to churn out is roughly P1.25 billion a year, sources told the INQUIRER.

The officials were quick to say however that the SSS is still exploring other options to help CAP's plan holders.

"If there is a financial institution that is willing to borrow on behalf of CAP, that can be an option," the source said.

CAP admitted that its trust fund is illiquid to a certain extent. But it said that between September 2004, when its dealer's license was suspended, up to the end of the 2004-2005 school year in March this year, CAP had paid a total of P1.636 billion in plan holder benefits.

SEC earlier cited CAP for violations against registration rules and the sale of pre-need plans.

According to the SEC, CAP's violations included failure to meet the regulator's mandated capital requirement. Based on its unaudited financial statement last year, CAP incurred a capital deficiency of P9.2 billion against P20.1 billion in 2003.

It also failed to deposit P6.86 billion in its trust fund to cover a two-year amortization under a regulatory leeway it currently enjoys from the SEC. Also, it failed to meet deposit requirements of restricted trust funds or funds that relate to sales made from March 2004 to April 2005. Sales during this period amounted to P181.9 million and was subject to additional deposit requirements.

The SEC also said CAP was remiss in filing its audited financial statement and actuarial valuation reports in 2004, and paying penalties worth P1.08 million.

Sources in CAP said it is currently working on its reply to the SEC.

CAP's license to sell education plans was suspended last year as it struggled to find new capital to address its trust fund deficit.

Hot money inflow more than doubled in July

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOREIGN portfolio inflows or "hot money" picked up anew, posting net gains of $76.8 million in July—more than double the $31 million windfall in June—as strong corporate earnings outweighed the fallout from the suspension of the expanded value added tax (EVAT) law and the political crisis.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. on Friday reported that after posting a net outflow of $12.7 million in the previous week, foreign portfolio investments yielded a net inflow of $24.8 million in the last week of July.

"Foreign investors apparently focused on the strong favorable second quarter profit reports ... after the generally favorable reaction to the President's State of the Nation Address," Tetangco said.

The net inflows of $76.8 million in July also represented a sharp turnaround from the $12.7 million net outflows recorded in the same period last year.

For the first seven months of 2005, the "hot money" inflows amounted to $1.93 billion, dwarfing the $140.7 million windfall seen in the same period last year.

But net inflows have already started to shrink starting in May this year compared to the monthly gains in the first four months. From inflows of $279.8 million in April, these dwindled to $98.7 million in May and further to $31 million in June.

The portfolio inflows were much larger at $543.5 million in January, $334.7 million in February and $562.1 million in March.

Tetangco said investor confidence had sharply improved in the first five months of the year, principally due to the progress in fiscal reform as reflected by the government's budgetary surpluses in April and June as well as reports of strong earnings performance for a number of listed firms.

"The political tensions that started in June involving allegations against the First Family and the issuance of TRO (temporary restraining order by the Supreme Court) on the implementation of the EVAT law, however, led to the downgrading of the country's credit rating outlook and the mixed movements in foreign portfolio flows from the second half of June," the BSP chief said.

For the month of July, for instance, there were net outflows in the second and fourth weeks, which were offset by net inflows in the remaining weeks.

For the week ending July 29, net inward portfolio investments registered with the BSP totaled $72.5 million, of which $36.6 million was in listed securities and $35.9 million in fixed rate treasury notes.

On the other hand, capital repatriations amounted to $47.7 million, representing divestment from listed securities ($17.2 million), government securities ($16 million) and peso bank deposits ($16.1 million).

BSP enforces guidelines on 3rd party custodians

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has required securities dealers to deliver all debt papers either to the buyer or to the designated third party custodian.

The regulator said this would curb the multiple sale of securities and undocumented repurchase deals.

The new guidelines on the proper delivery of securities resolved most of the issues hounding the third party custodianship system pushed by the BSP after months of consultations with dealers and custodian banks.

"Needless to say, the BSP will not relent in its efforts to champion the reforms aimed to protect the investor," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said. "We want to open the opportunities for the investor by allowing him to enjoy maximum yields on securities holdings, deal only with his counterparty of choice in a very transparent manner and become valuable contributors to the much hoped for capital market development of the country."

The fresh guidelines clarified the acceptable modes of delivery of securities, opening of accounts, required documentation, minimum client information, compliance with anti-money laundering regulations, treatment of undelivered securities and reportorial responsibilities for the benefit of investors.

The new rules also explicitly provided that delivery of securities effected through a book-entry transfer to a sub-account for clients under the primary account of the dealer would not be compliant under custodianship rules.

In addition, it limited the functions of agents-dealers acting on behalf of investors or purchasers of securities.

The proper delivery of securities by dealer banks and non-banks, either to the purchaser or to a BSP-accredited third party custodian assures the investors of a validated transfer of title and ownership to the securities bought and therefore gets the guarantee that said securities had not been subject to multiple sales and undocumented repurchase agreements. *Doris C. Dumlao*

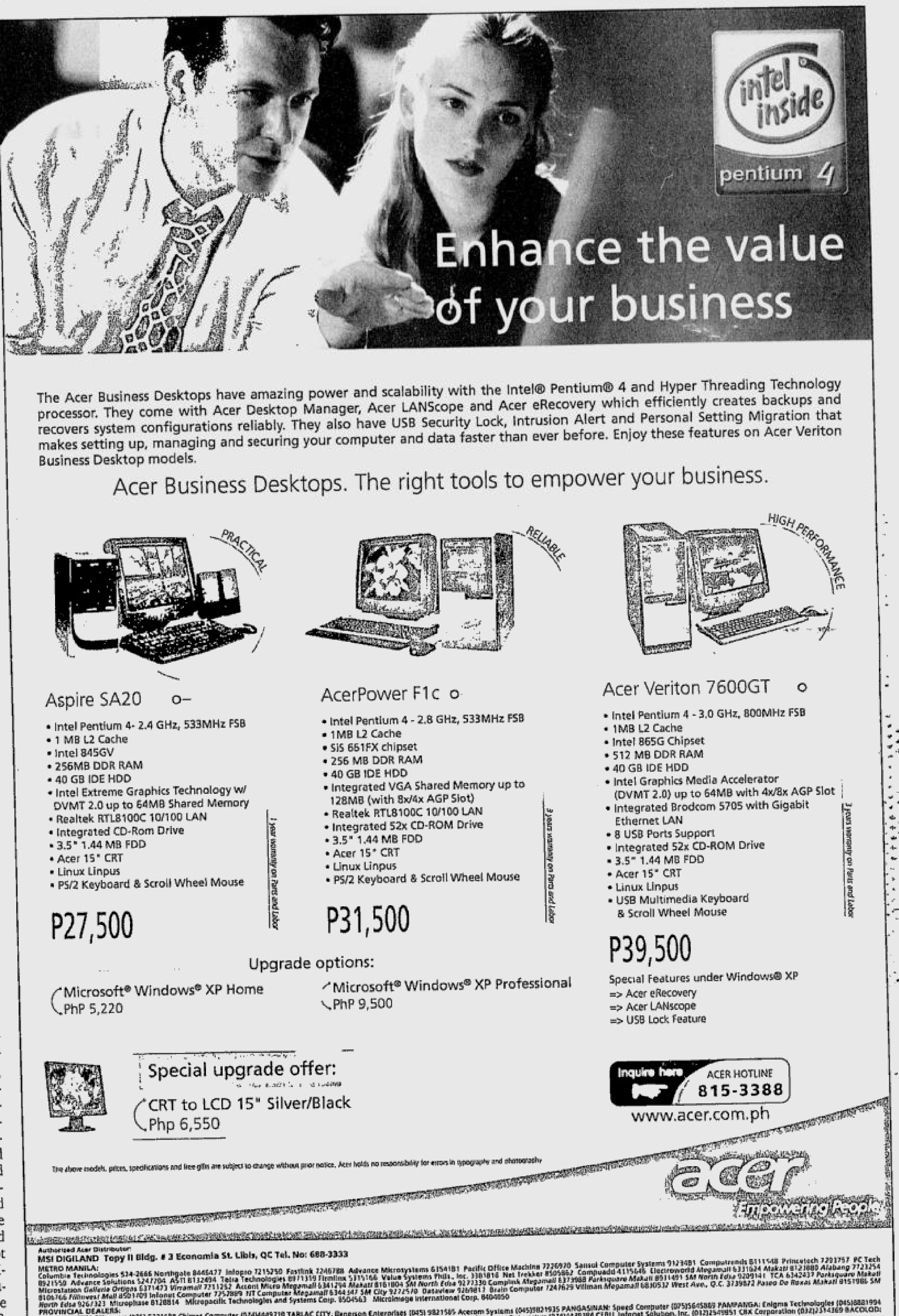
No Free Lunch

From page B5

cians are doing their job thoughtfully, and should reassure us that the quality of economic data we're getting keeps improving over time. This was the good news my Ateneo colleague Louie Dumlao was quoted last week about.

The bad news? The better quality data nonetheless belie claims that our economy is on the verge of taking off (see last week's column). Now if only it was the reverse!

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu



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Send your documents for free via 2GO

2GO RECENTLY opened its newest branch at the People's Support Center in Ayala corner Buendia Avenues, Makati City. And as a treat, 2GO Ayala customers may send their documents to anywhere in the Philippines through 2GO QuikPac free of charge.

The 130-sqm Ayala outlet is the flagship service center of 2GO, the freight group of the Aboitiz companies that pioneers the transformation of all the other 2GO retail outlets nationwide. 2GO was formerly known Aboitiz Express.

With its fresh and modern interior and equipment, 2GO is building a different experience in the cargo acceptance industry. 2GO Ayala offers services, such as 136 where customers can choose to have their cargo of any size delivered in 1, 3 or 6 days. QuikBox sends cargo in a box with specialized rates; QuikPac sends documents in a pouch nationwide; and QuikCash, the money transfer service that offers the lowest industry rate of P88 for the first P5,000.

The free 2GO QuikPac transaction for 2GO Ayala customers is extended up to Aug. 31. Customers are required to present a 2GO flyer that includes a coupon for your free QuikPac transaction.

Flyers are being given out in other 2GO/Aboitiz Express, attached to document deliveries and handed out in selected areas in Makati.

The newest 2GO Ayala outlet also sells SuperCat and SuperFerry tickets.

IDA-free with Incremin

IRON Deficiency Anemia, or IDA, afflicts one in every three children, warns the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). IDA is a condition that results from lack of iron in the blood. It affects a child both mentally and physically.

Protecting your child from IDA means making sure he gets enough iron from food like meat, chicken, fish and green leafy vegetables. Since most children may have difficulty getting sufficient iron from their diet, an iron supplement like Incremin may be the best way to go.

Incremin is an iron supplement for children scientifically formulated to help fight IDA. It contains IRONplus, 250 mg of Ferric Pyrophosphate Soluble, which is the equivalent of 30 mg of elemental iron in every 5 ml.

It is an important part of hemoglobin, the pigment that makes red blood cells red. Hemoglobin carries oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body. Lack of iron limits.the production of hemoglobin, and subsequently, the number of red blood cells. And because red blood cells are the body's oxygen-carriers, less oxygen ends up reaching the cells and tissues, affecting a person's overall health.

Iron is especially important for children because their bodies need more of it to support their rapid growth and development. Young children require about 10 mg of iron each day. Iron can help boost their resistance, as it is important to many immune system functions. It can also give them extra energy because it boosts energy production and prevents fatigue. Iron likewise promotes respiration and growth, as well as good skin tone.

Incremin also contains Lysine, an essential amino acid needed for proper growth. It also has B complex vitamins that assist metabolism, growth, blood formation, and maintenance of the digestive and nervous systems.

Taking Incremin regularly along with a carefully balanced diet and doctor's supervision can help prevent IDA and make children bright and healthy.

As part of its continuing efforts to help keep kids IDA-free, Incremin recently tied up with socio-civic group Gawad Kalinga to implement Bantay IDA. The three-month program addressed the problem of IDA among Filipino children. Conducted in Barangay Payatas 13, Quezon City, Bantay IDA included monthly consultations with doctors, as well as a series of free lectures for mothers on IDA prevention and good nutrition.

Nissan Shaw Center opens

FRIDAY, Aug. 5, another Nissan landmark formally opened to the public, and bound to become one of the popular landmarks in the highly commercialized and urbanized city of Mandaluyong: Nissan Shaw Center.

Nissan Shaw Center's opening as a dealership demonstrates the faith of Lica Management and Holdings Inc towards the Nissan brand, even with the uncertain political situation prevailing nowadays. The Nissan Shaw Center is an authorized dealer of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc.

"This new Nissan dealership strategically located near high-end urban enclaves like Wack Wack Subdivision, White Plains, Corinthian Gardens, Little Baguio and Greenhills, and we at NMPI (Nissan Motor Philippines, Inc.) strongly believe it will become a very popular dealership in that area," explained Dennis Chang, AVP for marketing and sales at NMPI.

Nissan Shaw Center is the third Nissan dealership Lica Management and Holdings is opening, joining the successful Nissan Southwoods and the NMPI flagship in South Manila, Nissan Westgate Alabang. Felix Limcaoco Jr chairs Nissan Shaw Center with Felix Limcaoco III as president and managing director. The dealership started receiving orders for Nissan vehicles March 30 when it was still under the management of Nissan Westgate. It started offering after-sales services June 1.

Nissan Shaw Center is envisioned to follow the lead of Nissan Westgate and Nissan Southwoods in providing excellent sales and after-sales service. For starters, Nissan Shaw Center has over 3,000 sqm of space housing, among others, 25 service bays, of which 12 are for body repair and painting. Nissan Shaw Center can service from 25 to 50 vehicles at any given time.

It is one of the five Nissan dealers in the country that can service the 350Z, Nissan's popular super sports car.

"Nissan Westgate emerged number one in customer satisfaction in Metro Manila as of June this year based on the surveys conducted by NMPI on Nissan dealerships. This is no small feat since Nissan Westgate will be celebrating only its 2nd year of operations on August. And we believe Nissan Shaw Center is primed to follow the lead of Nissan Westgate," explained Doroteo Sornet, general manager of the three sister Nissan dealer network, which includes Nissan Westgate Alabang and Nissan Southwoods in Carmona.

Likewise, Nissan Southwoods emerged number two in customer satisfaction among provincial dealers during the same period.

The opening of Nissan Shaw Center as a dealership, or its starting independent operations from Nissan Westgate, demonstrates its owners have absolute faith in the Nissan brand, whose resurgence in the Philippines and worldwide can no longer be stopped.

Increased sales by NMPI during the first six months of this year prove that the Nissan brand is indeed gaining better acceptance in the Philippines. During the said period, NMPI sold 2,460 units, reflecting a 19-percent increase compared to the same period last year.

"The launching of Nissan Shaw Center is very timely even with the present political situation, because there is no stopping the resurgence of the Nissan brand in the Philippines. We congratulate Lica Management and Holdings for its decision to launch Nissan Shaw Center as a dealership," Chang said.

THE POWER team of Nissan Shaw Center, from top left to right: Roland Trinidad, head of parts department; Briccio Segumalian, general sales manager; Ed Sibug, service manager; and Vergel San Jose, assistant accounting manager. Bottom left to right: Doroteo Sornet, general manager; Anna Tanhueco, assistant general manager; and Vanessa Urtola, customer relations department head.

Managing metabolic syndrome with fenofibrates

FENOFIBRATE has been shown to reduce risk of coronary events, including nonfatal heart attack and stroke, in patients with metabolic syndrome.

A study demonstrated the benefits of fenofibrate therapy in atherogenic dyslipidemia, a common risk factor for metabolic syndrome, a constellation of risk factors, which also include obesity, insulin resistance and hypertension. Atherogenic dyslipidemia is characterized by high triglycerides, low high-density lipoprotein (HDL) and the preponderance of small low-density lipoprotein.

Results of Diabetes Atherosclerosis Intervention Study (DAIS) showed that patients who took fenofibrate instead of placebo had a 40-percent less progression of minimum lumen (inner open space of the blood vessel) diameter (p= 0.02). There was also a 42-percent less progression in percentage diameter stenosis (narrowing of the heart vessels) versus placebo treatment (p=0.02).

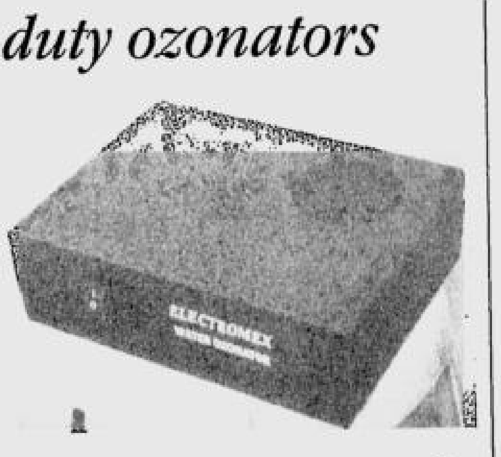
Currently, fenofibrate is being investigated through the Fenofibrate Intervention and Event Lowering in Diabetes (FIELD) study. This is considered as the largest trial to date, in a population with type 2 diabetes that examines the therapeutic effects of micronized fenofibrate on fatal study. Results of the study will be released at the end of the year and is expected to provide information on the efficacy of fenofibrate as the treatment option in people with type 2 diabetes.

Fenofibrate belongs to a class of drugs known as fibric acid derivatives or fibrate. It is currently being studied as a treatment option for CHD in people with type 2 diabetes.

ProductFILES

Heavy-duty ozonators

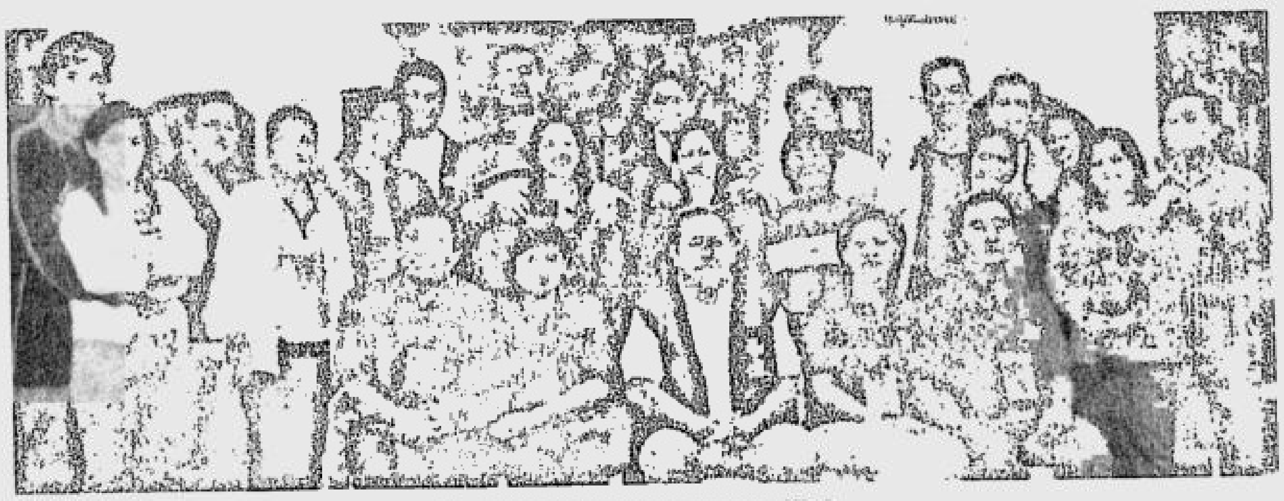
THE PROBLEM in maintaining a swimming pool is the recurring cost of buying extremely expensive and toxic chlorine. Chlorine is also corrosive and destroys pumps, pipes and even stains the tiles, adding more to your monthly costs.



The most cost-effective and safest alternative is the use of Electromex's Water Ozonators. By producing O3 (triple oxygen), the radical gas destroys all fungus, algae, germ and bacteria buildup that creates scaling and moss, making your pool chemical and odor-free. At the same time, it acts as a disinfectant that is 300 times better than chlorine upon contact, making your water crystal clear, even potable.

Electromex also builds Ozonators for water treatment in storage tanks, piggeries, markets, and Air Ozonators for odor control of wet garbage, smoking rooms, wet paint, motel/hotel rooms, mildew, printing presses, and germ control for meat poultry farms, and hospitals.

For more details, call Electromex at 531-6782 or 535-9069, or visit 287 L. Cruz Street corner Shaw Boulevard.



ROL MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER SLATED IN TAGAYTAY SEP. 2

The Reaching Out for the Lord (ROL) Series of the Tuklasan Sector, Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines, is slated to sponsor another Marriage Encounter (ME) weekend seminar from Sep 2 to 4 at the La Verna House of Prayers, Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Barangay Iruhin, Tagaytay City. The weekend seminar is ideal for married couples seeking fulfillment and rejuvenation in their marriages. Led by ROL 21 class coordinator Danny-Evelyn Fernandez, the 3-day live-in seminar hopes to redirect couple-relationship to be Christ-centered. Scheduled to serve as ecclesial team are Fr. Jess V. Fernandez SJ, Fred-Judith Bugaoisan and Boy-Zaida Villarosa. For inquiries, call Dennis-Tin-tin Santos, 807-9761 or 0915-8086890; Allan-Jing Abella, 947-5610, 943-0322 or 0919-6256353; Gerry-Gina Martinez, 0918-9119680; Dong-Emie Lalic, 827-3275 or 0918-9280293. Seminar fee for the 3-day weekend is P2,400/couple. Registration/reservation is on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline for registration is on Aug. 29.

Le Pavillon France
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FRANCE JOINS AGRILINK/FOODLINK 2005

Le Pavillon France joins Agrilink/Foodlink 2005, which will be held at the World Trade Center Manila from Oct. 6 to 8. Co-organized by the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (FRLD) with some 20 national industry associations, Agrilink/Foodlink is the Philippines' biggest and most prestigious annual international trade show on agriculture and food. Shown are, from left: Le Club-FCC public relations and events officer Helene Ratier, FRLD president Antonio V. Roces, Le Club-French Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines vice president Michel Hermelin, and Le Club-FCC marketing executive Stephane Khaled.

Masters of retailing speak at conference

THE 2005 Entrepreneur of the Year Awardee and National Book Store founder Socorro Ramos will be the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the 14th National Retailers Conference and Stores Asia Expo (14th NCRE). The event, organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), is slated on Aug. 18 and 19 (Conference) and Aug. 17 to 19 (Expo) at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

With partners GlobeQuest, PLDT Business Solutions and Tyco Integrated Systems, this year's NRCE is expected to be a gathering of the best minds in retailing as they share the lessons learned in their quest for "Mastering Retail," the theme for 2005.

Ramos, who has led her company to more than 70 branches in the country, has received numerous awards including the PRA/DTI Outstanding Filipino Retailers Award (2001 and 2004), Woman of the Year (2005), and Entrepreneur of the Year Award (2005) given by the prestigious Ernst & Young, to name a few.

Side by side with the conference is the only focused and dedicated retail suppliers exhibition billed as "Stores Asia Expo 2005" where a select group of suppliers to the retail industry are expected to showcase the latest "Tools for Global Retailing".

NRCE is also supported by ANC, Araneta Center, Ayala Center, Robinsons Malls, SM Shoemart, Montanara, Mellow Touch 94.7, Oracle Philippines, HBC, Rusty Lopez, San Miguel Corp, Oxygen, Bench, Shangri-La Plaza, IBM Philippines, Mastercard International, Celine, Colgate-Palmolive, Greenhills Shopping Center, Procter & Gamble Philippines, Unilever Philippines, Nestle Philippines.

For inquiries, call the PRA executive secretariat at 687-4180/4181/4985 or e-mail pra@nwave.net.

Fashion for less at Ducks Unlimited

STARTING Aug. 1 to 30, enjoy up to 50 percent off on all trendy apparel as Ducks Unlimited holds a big sale for all its items. Located at the 2nd floor of Glorietta 3 in Ayala Center, Makati, the Ducks boutique offers casual and sporty apparel for men, women, even kids-from golf shirts to ladies' blouses, pants, socks and accessories. Ducks also has branches in Robinsons' Galleria, Robinson's-Pioneer, Robinson's-Place- Ermita, Shoppesville-Greenhills, Century Park Sheraton Hotel, Festival Mall, SM-Marilao-Bulacan, SM-Pampanga, Crossing Department Store, Ali Mall-Cubao, Landmark-Makati.

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1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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2% w/out taking car 5315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

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ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN
THAT THE HEIRS OF THE LATE
CONCEPTION AGUINALDO GARDUQUE
HAVE EXECUTED A DEED OF EXTRA-
JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE
AS PER DOC NO. 131 PAGE NO. 027
BOOK NO. 331 SERIES OF 2005
BEFORE ATTY. WILFREDO Q. ABIOG
A NOTARY PUBLIC
(PDI JULY 29, AUG. 1 & 8, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle. Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

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AUGUST 18, 2005

PENTHOUSE, PHILAXA TOWER, BUENDIA, MAKATI CITY

CALOOCAN CITY

LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 371 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2 Everest St., Mountain Heights Subd. Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 450,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 292 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 1 Oakland St., Vista Verde North Phase 1-E, Brgy. Llano (North)
Minimum Bid Price 650,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Lot 20 Blk 26 Gen. Isagani V Campo St. Banker's Village II
Minimum Bid Price 650,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 750 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 11 Crispulo St., Victory Heights Subd., Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 810,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 273 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 11, Camarin Rd. Brgy. Camarin
Minimum Bid Price 900,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 259.7 sqm.
Floor Area 124 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 19, # 20 Anonas St., Brgy. PHHC-Camarin Subd., Area D Brgy. Camarin
Minimum Bid Price 900,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 100 sqm.
Dahlia St. cor. Road Lot 10 Estrella Homes Phase I
Minimum Bid Price 900,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 210 sqm.
34 Pomelo St. Rainbow Village 5, Phase 1, Brgy. Deparo
Minimum Bid Price 930,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 355 sqm.
68 Ninang Lydia St. BF Homes Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 1,900,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 121 sqm.
Floor Area 411 sqm.
E. Gomez St., Brgy. Calaanan
Minimum Bid Price 2,661,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 187.5 sqm.
Floor Area 113 & 354 sqm.
147 L. Nadurata cor. Massabelle Sts. Grace Park
Minimum Bid Price 4,000,000.00

LAS PIÑAS CITY

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 225 sqm.
Lot 14-A Vatican Drive, Italia 500 Subd., BF Resort, Brgy. Talon Dos
Minimum Bid Price 2,100,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Lot 31 Blk 1Cypress Road Pilar Village Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 2,300,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 351 sqm.
Floor Area 210 sqm.
239 El Grande Ave., BF International BF Homes, Brgy. Talon
Minimum Bid Price 2,400,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 630 sqm.
Floor Area 315 sqm.
2 Joy Conde St., BF Resort Village
Minimum Bid Price 4,300,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 644 sqm.
Floor Area 391 sqm.
202 Venice St. BF International, BF Homes Brgy. Talon
Minimum Bid Price 4,400,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,708 sqm.
Floor Area 2,174 sqm.
Jose Compound No. 889 J. Aguilar Ave. Casimiro
Minimum Bid Price 7,000,000.00

MAKATI CITY

LOT 18 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 29.41 sqm.
Unit 2116 Cityland 10 Tower 1 HV Dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price 902,000.00

LOT 19 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 65 sqm.
Unit 19-N Burgundy Corporate Towers Gil Puyat Ave.
Minimum Bid Price 4,200,000.00

LOT 20 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 45 sqm.
Unit 1204 Nobel Plaza Condo, 110 Valero St. Salcedo Vil
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000.00

LOT 21 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 63.64 sqm.
Unit P8 Prince Tower, Tordesillas St. Salcedo Vil.
Minimum Bid Price 2,250,000.00

LOT 22 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 63.75 sqm.
Unit 6D Classica Tower Condo, 114 HV Dela Costa St. Salcedo Vil
Minimum Bid Price 3,825,000.00

MALABON CITY

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 251 sqm.
Floor Area 241 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 13 Widow St. Victoneta North Subd. Brgy. Potrero, Bo. Tinajeros
Minimum Bid Price 3,550,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 264 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 15White Lily St., Victoneta North Subd. Brgy. Potrero Bo. Tinajeros
Minimum Bid Price 3,700,000.00

MANDALUYONG CITY

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 375 & 135 sqm.
(Prop. 1) No. 51 Pinatubo St. cor Private Lane 7 and (Prop. 2) along Private Lane 7. Brgy. Barangka Ilaya
Minimum Bid Price 12,500,000.00

MANILA

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150.9 sqm.
Lot 23, Sub-Block 2 Nepomuceno St., Brgy. 94 Zone 8 Tondo
Minimum Bid Price 1,549,000.00

LOT 27 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 114.08 sqm.
Unit 802, Magdalena Mansion Condo, No. 940 Masangkay St., Binondo
Minimum Bid Price 3,936,000.00

LOT 28 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 105.46 sqm.
Unit 1611, F Tytana Plaza Condo, San Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo
Minimum Bid Price 4,300,000.00

MARIKINA CITY

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 242.25 sqm.
Villareza Compound, No. 22 Bayabas St., Twin River Subdivision I, Barangay Nangka
Minimum Bid Price 1,050,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 132 sqm.
Floor Area 308 & 58.2 sqm.
594 E. Mendoza St., Paliparan Subd., Sto. Niño
Minimum Bid Price 1,001,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 307 sqm.
Floor Area 468 sqm.
555 JP Rizal St., Malanday
Minimum Bid Price 6,399,000.00

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 126 sqm.
Floor Area 96 sqm.
Lot 7 Emerald Hills Victoria Homes Subd., Tunasan
Minimum Bid Price 400,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 144 & 412 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 11 St. Mary St., Sto. Niño Vill., Brgy. Tunasan
Minimum Bid Price 2,800,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 7 Aragon St., Susana Heights Subd., Phase I
Minimum Bid Price 3,000,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 456 sqm.
Floor Area 201, 38 & 23 sqm.
30 Doña Ines St. Alabang Hills Vil
Minimum Bid Price 5,848,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 471 sqm.
Floor Area 204 & 40 sqm.
915 Acacia St. Doña Rosario Heights Subd. Brgy. Sucat
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000.00

NAVOTAS CITY

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 216 sqm.
Road Lot 2 & Alley 1, Canville Subd. Bo. Tanza
Minimum Bid Price 1,400,000.00

PARAÑAQUE CITY

LOT 38 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Unit C-08, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 39 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Unit C-09, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 40 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Unit C-10, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 41 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Unit C-11, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 42 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Unit C-12, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 43 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 102.2 sqm.
Unit C-07, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,800,000.00

LOT 44 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 60 sqm.
Unit 2004 Bayview International Towers, Tower 2 Roxas Blvd. Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000.00

LOT 45 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 69 & 12.5 sqm.
Unit 504 Bayview International Towers Tower 3 Roxas Blvd. Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 2,600,000.00

LOT 46 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 154 sqm.
Unit 1205 Bayview International Towers, Tower 3 Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 5,000,000.00

LOT 47 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 176 & 12.5 sqm.
Unit 602 Bayview International Towers, Tower 1 Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 5,800,000.00

LOT 48 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 185 & 12.5 sqm.
Unit 2001 Bayview International Towers, Tower 1, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 6,800,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 263 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 1, Sheryl Mirra St., Multinational Village La Huerta
Minimum Bid Price 890,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Floor Area 119.12 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 1, Rd. Lot 2, Equity Homes IV San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price 900,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,057 sqm.
Lots 2-B-2-F 2-B-2-G, 2-B-2-H, 2-B-2-I, Enberta Cmpd., Salvador Estate Brgy. San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price 3,200,000.00

LOT 52 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area 193.87 sqm.
Unit Q, Tropicana Villa Condo, 632 Quirino Ave. Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 3,200,000.00

LOT 53 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area 193.87 sqm.
Unit R, Tropicana Villa Condo, 632 Quirino Ave., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 3,200,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 280 sqm.
Floor Area 241.96 & 22.44 sqm.
45 Biyuleta St., Tahanan Village
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000.00

PASAY CITY

LOT 55 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area 62.5 sqm.
No. 22 EDSA Mansion 1 No. 670 EDSA, Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price 2,800,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,029 sqm.
2530 Int. M. Dela Cruz St. Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price 9,300,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 579 sqm.
Lots 208-F, 208-D, 208-E-F Sanchez St., Brgy. 82 Zone 10, San Rafael District
Minimum Bid Price 9,043,000.00

PASIG CITY

LOT 58 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 154.84 sqm.
Units 501 & 502 Pacific Center, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center
Minimum Bid Price 5,000,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 59 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 35 sqm.
Unit 104 GF Xavierville Royale Condo, Xavierville Ave.
Minimum Bid Price 950,000.00

LOT 60 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 97.42 & 12.5 sqm.
Roofdeck 1B, Penthouse Heart of the City Condo, 40 Sgt. Esguerra cor. Sct. Albano Sts., Diliman
Minimum Bid Price 2,600,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 320 sqm.
Lot 1081-M Camarin Road, Brgy. Camarin, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 1,100,000.00

LOT 62 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area 54 sqm.
Floor Area 78.6 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 3 Dionisio Royale Exec Homes, 38 Beethoven St., Brgy. Sauyo
Minimum Bid Price 1,250,000.00

LOT 63 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area 54 sqm.
Floor Area 78.6 sqm.
Lot 21 Blk 3 Dionisio Royale Exec Homes, 38 Beethoven St., Brgy. Sauyo
Minimum Bid Price 1,250,000.00

LOT 64 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area 54 sqm.
Floor Area 78.6 sqm.
Lot 24 Blk 3 Dionisio Royale Exec Homes, 38 Beethoven St., Brgy. Sauyo
Minimum Bid Price 1,250,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 5 Rd. Lot 2 cor Rd Lot 3, Sunny-side Heights Subd
Minimum Bid Price 1,300,000.00

LOT 66 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area 50 sqm.
Floor Area 114 sqm.
Unit H Cassanova Townhouse Brgy. Culiat
Minimum Bid Price 1,425,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 329 sqm.
Floor Area 194 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 8, Greenfields Subd., Ph. 1, Brgy. Kaligayahan Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 1,933,000.00

LOT 68 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area 137.84 sqm.
Unit 304 Woodland Townhomes, 5th Ave. Cubao
Minimum Bid Price 1,995,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 207 sqm.
Floor Area 539 sqm.
4 San Pedro St. San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price 2,697,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 400 sqm.
37 Masambahin St., Teacher's Village East
Minimum Bid Price 7,306,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Floor Area 35, 114 & 193 sqm.
15 Zamboanga St. Brgy. Nayong Kanluran
Minimum Bid Price 7,320,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,803 sqm.
Lot 25 Blk 17 Grant St., Filinvest II Subd., Capitol Dist
Minimum Bid Price 7,840,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 523 sqm.
Floor Area 369, 40 & 13 sqm.
3 Rivera cor Astoria Sts. St. Ignatius Vill.
Minimum Bid Price 9,730,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 600 sqm.
Floor Area 479 sqm.
26 Hillside Dr., Blue Ridge A Subd. Quirino Dist
Minimum Bid Price 11,300,000.00

LOT 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,078.5 sqm.
Quirino Hway. Brgy. San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 13,750,000.00

SAN JUAN

LOT 76 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 169.35 & 10.12 sqm.
Unit 304 Goldhill Tower Condo, 5 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price 3,300,000.00

LOT 77 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 169.35 & 10.12 sqm.
Unit 603 Goldhill Tower Condo, 5 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 78 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 398 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 2 F. Lazaro St. Canumay
Minimum Bid Price 800,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,000 sqm.
Lot 353-A-1-1-1, St. James St., Skylite Subd., Bo. Bniete Reales
Minimum Bid Price 3,200,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 3,012 sqm.
Floor Area 170, 68 & 164 sqm.
378 Gales St., Brgy. Bignay
Minimum Bid Price 3,300,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 332 sqm.
Batangas cor. Kona St., Arbortowne Subd., Brgy. Karuhatan
Minimum Bid Price 3,800,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,200 sqm.
Floor Area 1,185.07 sqm.
Cayetano St., Brgy. Karuhatan
Minimum Bid Price 7,500,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,514 sqm.
Floor Area 740, 600 & 792 sqm.
Franco Enterprises Compound, Brgy. Bagbaguin
Minimum Bid Price 8,000,000.00

LOT 84
WITHDRAWN

LOT 85 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 3,014 sqm.
Floor Area 2,217, 309, 5.5 & 36 sqm.
72 R. Jacinto St. Brgy. Canumay
Minimum Bid Price 16,820,000.00

ADDITIONAL

MAKATI CITY

LOT 86 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 28.77 sqm.
Unit 507, 5th Floor, Prince Plaza I Condo., Legaspi Village
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 87 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 46.26 sqm.
U-1820 Cityland 10 Tower II, HV Dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price 1,200,000.00

LOT 88 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 134.17 sqm.
U-1809 Cityland 10 Tower II, HV Dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price 3,350,000.00

LOT 89 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 91.25 sqm.
U-2410 Cityland 10 Tower II, HV Dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price 2,760,000.00

LOT 90 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 34.26 sqm.
Unit G-43 South Star Plaza Gen. S Estrella & Gen. V. Lucban Sts., Brgy. Bangkal, South Superhighway
Minimum Bid Price 850,000.00

MANDALUYONG CITY

LOT 91 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 30.8225 sqm.
Unit 2205-B Wack-Wack Twin Towers Tower B Wack-Wack Road
Minimum Bid Price 985,000.00

MANILA

LOT 92 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 106 & 11 sqm.
Unit 15-C, 15th Floor, Ocean Tower, 2044 Roxas Blvd. Ermita
Minimum Bid Price 5,788,000.00

LOT 93 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 166.45 sqm.
Unit 901, 9F, Sunrise Mansion Condo, Aguilar St. Binondo
Minimum Bid Price 4,580,000.00

PASAY CITY

LOT 94 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 100.8 sqm.
Unit 305, 3F, Jolliland Condo 670 EDSA
Minimum Bid Price 4,032,000.00

LOT 95 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 101.73 sqm.
Unit 309 3rd Floor, Jolliland Condo 670 EDSA
Minimum Bid Price 4,070,000.00

PASIG CITY

LOT 96 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 67.69 sqm.
Unit 1210, 12F, Parc Royale Condo, Doña Julia Vargas Ave. cor. Meralco Ave.
Minimum Bid Price 4,000,000.00

PARAÑAQUE CITY

LOT 97 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 368 sqm.
Floor Area 252 & 17 sqm.
108 Bb. Ramona Tirona St. BF Homes
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000.00

LOT 98 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area 112 sqm.
Greenheights Townhouse, Greenheights Ave. Greenheights Village
Minimum Bid Price 2,350,000.00

LOT 99 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 960 sqm.
Floor Area 904 & 18.55 sqm.
79 Nazareth St., Multinational Village
Minimum Bid Price 13,500,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 100 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 194 sqm.
Lot 12, Blk 2 San Roque St., Jonaville Urban Subd., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon (San Agustin) Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 400,000.00

LOT 101 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 47.88 sqm.
Unit 7, 3/F, San Jose Condominium, 119 Scout Fernandez St., Brgy. Sacred Heart
Minimum Bid Price 1,300,000.00

LOT 102 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 41.48 sqm.
Unit 9 5F, San Jose Condominium, 119 Scout Fernandez St. Brgy. Sacred Heart
Minimum Bid Price 1,150,000.00

LOT 103 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 145 sqm.
Unit L Braclane Brevillo Condo, 28 N. Domingo St. Brgy. Valencia
Minimum Bid Price 2,400,000.00

SAN JUAN

LOT 104 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 190.76 sqm.
U-4B, 4F, Platinum Condo 1000, 16 Annapolis St. Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price 6,000,000.00

LOT 105 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 190.76 sqm.
U-5A, 5F, Platinum Condo 1000, 16 Annapolis St. Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price 6,000,000.00

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SHOWN at the ribbon cutting on the successful jobfair at the Metro Point Mall Overseas Employment Expo held on July 28 to 30 are: Lilia Linda W. Ang, president and CEO of Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors, Inc (Palscon); Lina Aseneta, president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP); Leovy S. Aguila, chief of Program Services Division of Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA); Marilou Tan, OIC of Prime Stars Intl.; Babes Good, Classified Ads kalaw branch manager; and Jesse Rebustillo, Classifieds Division Head.

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Qualifications:
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- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilites:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

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DESK EDITOR - SOUTH LUZON BUREAU

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably major in Journalism or Social Sciences course
- 3 years experience in newspaper journalism
- 1 year experience in editing stories and designing/layouting pages
- Knowledge of the ins and outs of the bureau assigned
- Nose for news, interpersonal management skills, leadership skills, editing skills, layouting skills, news evaluating skills, writing skills, budget management skills and finance & assets management skills
- Familiar with editorial operations in a publishing industry

Responsibility:
- Responsible for coordinating activities of news gathering in the business by determining priority and occasionally assigning coverage with the objective of assisting in achieving editorial excellence.

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Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably Fine Arts
- With background in Computer, Photoshop, Pagemaker, CorelDraw
- Knowledgeable in manual and computer based illustration, page design and artwork skills
- 1 year experience as Graphic Artist

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

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Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

Republic of the Philippines
KALINGA-APAYAO STATE COLLEGE
Dagupan, Tabuk, Kalinga 3800

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Kalinga-Apayao State College formally and publicly announces that the

Search for Presidency

of the KALINGA-APAYAO STATE COLLEGE (KASC) is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Kate C. Botengan.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Filipino citizen
- MA, MS, Preferably a holder of a doctoral degree
- Preferably 35 to 60 years old but not more than 65 at the time of application
- Must be morally upright
- With Recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe or industry
- With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation
- Regional Trial Court Clearance where applicant's domicile is located
- Sandiganbayan
- Civil Service Commission and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer
- Previous Employer

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with

- Detailed curriculum vitaé and certified supporting documents (Subscribed by a Notary Public)
- Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrusts of the State College
- Results of neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by any government psychiatrist or any accredited health institution sealed and mailed separately by the examining psychiatrist to the SCP
- Medical Certificate from a government physician
- Drug Test Result

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before 30 September 2005 to:

The Office of CHED Comissioner S.M. OCAMPO, JR.
c/o MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
CHED, 5/l, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.
Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636 1690
Telefax No. (02) 636 1693

OR

MS. PERFELIA RANCHEZ-BUEN
Board Secretary V
Kalinga-Apayao State College
Dagupan, Tabuk, Kalinga 3800
Cel. No. 0917-8226145
Fax No. (074) 199-1116
E-mail: fe_buen2005@yahoo.com

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Katarungan at Kultura ng Korte Suprema

"IYO Ang Katarungan...." a two-part episode of the 104th Anniversary of the Supreme Court, a celebration in thanksgiving, held its Anniversary Concert entitled "Katarungan at Kultura", which showcased the history of the Philippine Judiciary within the context of the country's history and culture last Aug. 7, Sunday over IBC 13. The concert, which was held at the Philamlife Auditorium, U.N. Avenue, Ermita, Manila was presented in partnership with the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The concert starred renowned guest performing artists and local talents. A colorful parade participated in by all the members of the Supreme Court, officials and employees in a mass of rainbow colors featuring street dancing wormed its way into the tourist-busy streets of the Ermita District. On the program proper various artists in entertainment and sports scene were there to grace the event—Rudy Fernandez, Jerome John Hughes, Riza Navales, Cong. Robert "Dudut" Jaworski, Jr., Vince Hizon, Jerry Codiñera, Noli Locsin, Ren-ren Ritualo, Wesley Gonzales, John Ferriols, Richard Merk, Heber Bartolome, Tia Pusit, Francine Prieto, Ya Chang, CJ Javarata, Kit Kat, Big Three Sullivans and many more. "Iyo Ang Katarungan..." is hosted by no less than the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court, Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr. This three-year-old show has been successful with its format of giving free legal assistance.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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deeply condole with the family of their

FOUNDING CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT
and CONSULTANT

Engr. NESTOR M. HERRERA, SR.

(Brother of Retired Justice Oscar M. Herrera, Sr.)

who went home to his Creator
last August 5, 2005.

His body lies in state at Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City. Interment will be on Wednesday, August 10, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 1:00 p.m. Mass

---

ISABEL FERRER-FRANCO, M.D.

Pediatrician
UP Medicine Class 1933

Peacefully joined our Lord and her late husband,
Dr. Cecilio D. Franco
on August 5, 2005.

Her bereaved children	**Miriam, Cynthia, Diana, Rosalie Ann** and **Cecilio Luis III**
Children-in-law	**Antonio del Rosario, Agapito Fajardo, Sr., Ruben Briones** and **Chiqui Miranda**
Cousin	**Amparo Santamaria-Lardizabal**
Grandchildren	**Pink** and **Gary Angeles, Tonton** and **Gina, Nini** and **Joseph Valdez, Norman** and **Shella, Leonel, John Paul** and **Shiela Fajardo; RJ** and **Ina, Rainan, Robbie Briones; Betty May** and **Mark Davies; Cecilio Luis IV, Andrew** and **Allison Franco; Maribel** and **Alan Ortiz, Bo, Jun** and **Arthur del Rosario; Marian** and **Troy Pffercorn**
Great grandchildren	**JV, Nica, Sergio** and **Thea Valdez; Lorenzo** and **Agapito Fajardo III; Allysa Pauline** and **John Benedict Fajardo, Diana Hayley, Freddie Davies; Isabel Beatrice Briones, Mikaela Isabel Angeles**

nieces and nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul. She was an inspiration to her family and friends and practiced her profession with compassion and humanity.

Her remains lie in state at the Green Meadows Chapel B, QC. Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino, QC on August 10, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Green Meadows.

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and bank-to-bank payments

Death Notices

ESTER BERNADOS CABAÑGIS

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 3, 2005.

Her remains lie at her residence in 1510 Velasquez St., Tondo Manila. Interment will be on Tuesday, August 9, 2005, 9 a.m. at Manila North Cemetery.

ANGELIE DE BORJA CANLAS

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 3, 2005.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Pasig City. Interment will be on August 10, 2005 at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

ANTONIO A. CONTY

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 5, 2005.

His remains lie in state at the Lipa City Mortuary, San Sebastian Cathedral. Interment will be on August 10, 2005 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory of

JOSE L. LUDOVICE, M.D.

FOUNDER, LUDOVICE GENERAL HOSPITAL
DARAGA, ALBAY

November 14, 1930 – August 8, 2000

on the 5th Anniversary of his Death

Holy Masses offered today at the following Churches:

Our Lady of the Gate Parish .... 6:30 a.m.
Daraga, Albay
St. Gregory the Great Cathedral .... 5:30 p.m.
Legazpi City
Our Lady of Fatima Parish .... 6:00 a.m.
Las Piñas City
Holy Child Parish .... 6:00 a.m.
Jimalalud Negros Or.
San Antonio de Padua .... 6:00 a.m.
Sibulan, Negros Or.

His loving wife **Dr. Laurentina Real-Ludovice;** children **Joselito** (U.S.A. Airborne Division), daughter-in-law **Gretchen Duzer, Dr. Jonathan, Josefiel** and **Joane** request relatives and friends to continously remember him in their prayers.

So lovingly remembered

Mayor DOMINGO B. FLORES

On his 25th Death Anniversary

Masses will be held on August 8, 2005 at the following:

Presentation of the Lord Parish .... 6:00 AM
Batasan, Macabebe, Pampanga
St. Nicholas de Tolentino .... 6:00 AM
Macabebe, Pampanga
St. Nicolas de Tolentino .... 6:00 AM
Neptune St., Congressional Subd., Q.C.
St. Francis – Sta. Quiteria Parish .... 6:00 AM
Sta. Quiteria, Baesa, Caloocan
St. Michael the Archangel Parish .... 5:00 AM
Masantol, Pampanga

His family request the pious readers to pray for his soul.

> "...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
>
> — 2 Corinthians 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT COPRATION

Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and classified, at least, as IAC Small, Sub-Category B, specialty in electrical Works or General Building – Building & Industrial Plant to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE LEYTE EXPANDED RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
STAGE XVI, SCHEDULE 1 (4 SITIOS)
EDC 05-121

The Approved Budget is PhP 2,699,746.28 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 120 calendar days

Application forms for eligibility and the bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o F.T. Tolibas local 5179) starting August 8, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Two Thousand (Php 2,000.00).

Site Inspection is on September 8-9, 2005. For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on September 15, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Application for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, First Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of September 30, 2005 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) FRANCIS M. DOLOR
BAC Chairman

(PDI – August 8, 2005)

NFA assures rice sufficiency in Capiz

THE NATIONAL Food Authority (NFA) has assured sufficient supply for the rice needs of all municipalities in the province of Capiz, including Roxas City, through the agency's accredited rice outlets. Since May this year, a total of 6,411 bags of well-milled rice and 5,831 bags of regular-milled rice have been issued to various NFA accredited rice outlets for sale to the public at P18.50 and P16.00 per kilogram (kg), respectively. These outlets include the Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke, individual accredited rice retailers in outside markets and farmer cooperatives. NFA Capiz provincial manager Sergio A. Balofinos, Jr. said his office continues to implement intensive market monitoring to ensure the availability of government rice in various markets in the province. "Quality and affordable NFA rice is available in our 17 municipalities," he assured.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepED **SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 635-98-22, 631-06-76.; Telefax No. 635-98-26

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education is a recipient of an Office Development Assistance (ODA) loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of JPY7,210 million to finance the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be utilized for eligible expenditures for the construction of the following:

Project Description	School	Location
Single Storey, 3-Classroom Building	Biliran Natl. Agricultural High School	Biliran, Biliran
• Two Storey, 4-Classroom Building • Single Storey, Library Building with Faculty and Guidance Room	Cabucgayan National School of Arts and Trades	Cabucgayan, Biliran
Single Storey Science Laboratory Building	Vigo National High School	Maripipi, Biliran

JBIC requires that the bidders and contractors as well as the DepEd, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA loans, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contract. In pursuance of this, JBIC: (i) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question and (ii) will recognize a contractor as ineligible for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC OAD loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fradulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract financed by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) registered contractors or joint venture contractors with valid license, general building in category and eligible to enter into a contract based on award, Schedule of Issuance of Bidding Documents, pre-bidding conference and opening of bids are as follows:

Municipality		Start of Issuance of Bidding Documents	Pre-Bidding Conference	Opening of Bids
Biliran	Date	August 3-12, 2005	August 10, 2005	August 22, 2005
	Place	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall
	Time		10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Cabucgayan	Date	August 3-12, 2005	August 11, 2005	August 23, 2005
	Place	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall
	Time		10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Maripipi	Date	August 3-12, 2005	August 12, 2005	August 24, 2005
	Place	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall
	Time		10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Contact Person: Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee				

The complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon submission of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000.00 for Biliran and Culaba building packages and P5,000.00 for Cabucgayan building packages.

Submission of bids together with all the documents required in the bid documents must be delivered to the aforesaid venue and dates. All bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of all the bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary for Administration and Finance

(PDI – August 1 & 8, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ONE-YEAR GENERATION OF BUNKER-C WASTE OIL

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING August 30, 2005 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Bldg.-1, Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the one-year generation of waste Bunker C for the following NPC power barges.

Power Barge and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1. PB-101, Osmeña Wharf, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu	P 11.00/liter
2. PB-102, Brgy. Obrero, Iloilo City, Panay Island	P 11.00/liter
3. PB-103, Brgy. Botongan, Estancia Iloilo Province, Panay Island	P 11.00/liter
4. PB-104, Brgy. Calumpang, General Santos City, Mindanao	P 10.65/liter

Participating bidders must be accredited waste oil treater or processor by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Environment Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) and ready to present their valid Permit to Operate and Environment Compliance Certificate.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:
1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S / CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY)
3. TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (VALID UP TO DATE OF BIDDING)

PARTIES WHO WISH TO SECURE BID FORMS MUST PRESENT VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. Alfonso D. Alday, Manager, Warehousing, Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 922-8431. **Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM, August 29, 2005.**

For the Materials and Management Department

(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI–Aug. 8, 9 & 10, 2005)

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Rising credit risks reflect state of ailing banks

By Doris C. Dumlao

CREDIT risks of ailing banks appear to be rising as emergency loans granted through the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. almost doubled to P80.7 billion at end-2004 from P43 billion the previous year, according to documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The BSP considered P57 billion out of the total outstanding loans to be "high risk," after the regulator deducted the P23.38 billion in PDIC loans which were secured by government securities.

The BSP is allowed by its charter to extend rediscount, discounts, loans, advances and emergency loans to banking institutions through its Department of Loans and Credit, whose outstanding loan portfolio stood at P124.48 billion at end-2004.

According to the BSP documents, PDIC accounted for almost 65 percent of the total portfolio. The documents reflected the concerns of the Commission on Audit over a possible "concentration risk."

"BSP is exposed to a possible significant loss for one account alone in case of PDIC's inability to settle its obligations," the documents said.

However, the same documents said the BSP management still believed that the perceived "overconcentration" risk far outweighed the risks run by the banking sector.

The risks, it said, could result in situations that could lead to a bank run and large economic dislocation.

Already, the BSP has created the Task Force on Banking and Systemic Risk to study the financial assistance to banks and PDIC, and to prepare a set of guidelines to govern the BSP's extension of financial assistance to banks and the PDIC.

The documents also noted the "very lax" mode of loan payments afforded to the PDIC, which is allowed to pay interest on maturity.

"BSP lost the opportunity to earn more or less P117.909 million for this year (using 8.357 percent rediscounting rate for December 2004) on the interest income on the P42,075.942 million had it been collected and relent to banking institutions under the regular rediscounting scheme," the documents said.

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Neda wants to abandon ₱2.8-B Metro road project

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority may abandon the P2.8-billion Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project in an effort to cut down on its foreign borrowings.

Neda Assistant Director General Rolando Tungpalan told reporters in a briefing last week that the project, which aims to decongest Metro Manila's main thoroughfares, could be canceled considering the setback in its implementation.

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has committed to provide the funding for the Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project (MMICP). The Department of Public Works and Highways was tasked to implement the project.

The project has been delayed for about three years because of policy differences between the DPWH and the Metro Manila Development Authority. The MMDA said it has a different road plan for Metro Manila.

JBIC country representative Mayumi Endoh earlier expressed disappointment over the delay, slamming the apparent lack of coordination between the MMDA and the DPWH in pursuing infrastructure development projects.

The MMICP aims to unclog the busy intersections of North and West Avenues, and Roosevelt Avenue on Edsa. It likewise aims to create easier travel by vehicles coming from Pasig City going to Makati City, using C-5 Road.

Tungpalan said the MMICP was one of two major projects the government plans to abandon, as it moves to clean up its ODA portfolio. He said the national government is moving toward reducing its ODA commitments to help ease the government's fiscal problem.

The Neda earlier reported that the government's cumulative ODA commitment was cut to $10.7 billion in 2004 from $10.9 billion in 2003. The figure has been on a downtrend since 2001, when it stood at $13.2 billion.

DBM studying proposal to hike gov't pay

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management is now reviewing the government's position classification and compensation systems as it aims to make the salaries of government workers competitive with those in the private sector.

In a paper, the DBM said its ongoing study on the compensation system has revealed several weaknesses that are the usual subjects of complaint from government employees and officials. One is that the salary level of those in supervisory, management and executive positions in government is significantly lower than those offered in the private sector.

The DBM said salaries of executives in the private sector are 85.31 percent to 472.38-percent higher than the ones received by their counterparts in government.

Another issue raised on the government's compensation system is that a total of 20 government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) are exempted from the Salary Standardization law. The exemptions have been a subject of criticisms by some employees in state agencies. They said that the exemption defeated the purpose of standardizing salary levels in government offices.

According to the DBM, the study on rationalizing the position and compensation systems adopt several principles that will be used as a basis in developing recommended reforms.

One is that the job and salary classification shall be standardized across all government entities using a single job evaluation system.

"There shall be uniform pay and benefits administration policy," it said.

But with the government in deep financial trouble, the DBM said the compensation system shall be designed in consideration of the government's financial capabilities.

It added that the compensation system should be competitive with medium-sized private firms, explaining that the government still could not afford to match salaries offered by large private companies.

While the study is being completed, the DBM proposed that allowances of government workers be raised by a fixed percentage of basic salary but not less than P500. It said the increase in allowance shall not be subject to tax.

Michelle V. Remo

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

WHAT'S INSIDE

What's the big idea? By John Maxwell /B2-2

Search for role models for the youth launched /B2-3

Honoring blue-collar workers /B2-4

Wanted: A few good leaders

By Yoly Villanueva-Ong
Contributor

A bistro that has changed owners, menus and names 5 times in 5 years…

An ad agency that was virtually deleted from the industry in a hostile takeover…

A manufacturing company's division of 500 employees expunged for dismal performance…

A huge chain of superstores gone belly up—pleads Chapter 11…

A bank gobbled up and swallowed by the surviving entity of a merger…

A non-profit organization discredited by scandals…

A political party torn apart by bickering factions…

One country imploding in ethnic wars and disintegrating into several little states …

AN autopsy of defunct, diseased or dysfunctional organizations, companies, institutions and even countries, invariably identifies one common cause of death. Like a malignant, terminal cancer that is insidious and often fatal, quality of leadership seems to be the culprit: bad, ineffective, impotent, corrupt and aimless leaders.

Warren Bennis, a Harvard professor, hit it on the head when he wrote, "A leader has to be able to change an organization that is dreamless, soulless and visionless . . . someone's got to make a wake-up call." Is there a sperm bank that breeds leaders? Can we clone Gandhi and Churchill, Jack Welch and Bill Gates, Mother Teresa and Florence Nightingale? If they can be developed, where have all the first-rate leaders gone? Why are "crisis of leadership" or "vacuum of leadership" such widespread lament in the corporate and public worlds?

Like Diogenes in search of an honest man, it seems like the quest for a good leader is as futile as looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack. And yet is there a single CEO/president, head, managing director, chief, mayor, barangay Captain, president who does not consider himself/herself an exemplary leader? Are leadership skills like common sense and good taste—taken for granted but actually rare? Why is there such a drought of leader material?

The great Socratic conundrum

Students and scholars have proven what Socrates has always maintained. That the more you think you know about something, the more you're sure you don't. The more you read, the more ignorant you are. When you feel your knowledge is complete, the more you will note the contradictions and lack of conclusions. In his book, "Leadership without Easy Answers," Ronald Heifetz postulates that "Leadership arouses passion." It betrays perplexity and disquiet. The word itself is value-laden. It involves our self-images and moral codes. Is Osama Bin Laden a leader? What about Hitler and Idi Amin?

The debate rages on.

To the question of "Would you rather be a manager or a leader? A leader or a follower?" The response is almost always "leader" because in organizations and politics, it is considered a "prize."

It is easy to understand why leadership often gets confused with "status," "power" and "authority." But in fact, you could be a manager or head of state and you have the position of official authority and the status. But this power does NOT make you a leader. It simply makes you the Boss. And unless you can make your subordinates or constituents WANT to achieve a shared vision, you're only bossing people around.

"You will always need the favor of the inhabitants . . . It is necessary for a Prince to possess the friendship of the people." Even Machiavelli believed that.

Essence of leadership

What then makes a leader? James MacGregor Burns, the acknowledged guru of leadership, defines it as "the process of persuasion or example by which an individual induces a group to pursue objectives held by the leader or shared by the leader and his followers." A friendlier definition is

WANTED/ B2-2

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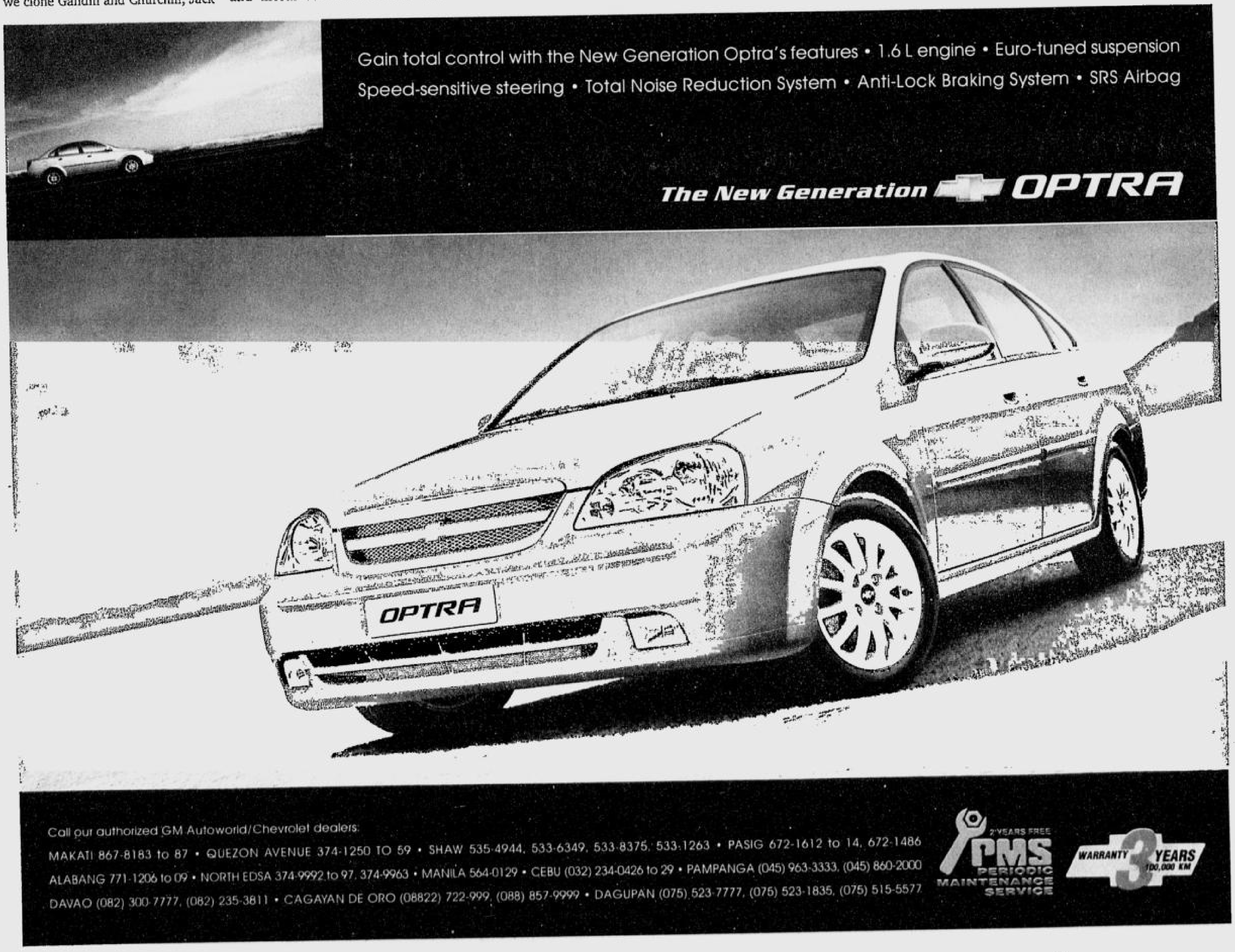

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PROCTER & Gamble Distributing (Phils.) Inc. was one of the top corporate taxpayers in Revenue District 47 (East Makati) as attested to by the Bureau of Internal Revenue for the fourth consecutive year. Photo shows PIG lawyers Ed Imperial (2nd from right) receiving the award from BIR officials led by Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag (right), revenue district officer Simplicio Madulara, assistant regional director Nieva Guerrero and regional director Anselmo Adriano.

What's the big idea?

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

TO SUCCEED in today's competitive environment, a leader must be able to develop and implement a winning strategy.

It's one thing to toss out all kinds of ambitious dreams at a corporate planning retreat and naively believe that because your ideas look good on paper, you'll actually be able to accomplish some of them.

It's another thing entirely to identify the one "big idea" that has real potential to take your company (or your department or team) to a new level of growth and then turn it into reality.

Here are five steps to help you filter through all the lofty possibilities and hone in on the winning strategy that will spur you and your business to future success:

1. Identify your company's competitive advantages.

What do you do better than anyone else? Do you make a better widget than all your competitors? Is your customer service second-to-none? Are you known for the quality of your work? The competence of your people? Do you set the standard when it comes to flexibility, innovation, speed or reliability?

Pinpoint your competitive advantages and formulate your strategy around them.

2. Figure out the fundamental needs of your customers.

Do they require customized services or products, or are they happy with the services and products you might offer to a variety of clients? Do they want on-site assistance or can they get the help they need through e-mail communication with members of your team? Do they value consistency and dependability, or are they more interested in creativity and cutting-edge technology?

Don't base your big idea on what you think your customers need. Ask them what they need and figure out how you can meet those needs better than anyone else.

3. Keep a continuous eye on the competition.

You don't operate in a vacuum. The other players in your industry want the business as much if not more than you do and they are constantly looking for ways to get it. Pay attention to what your existing and prospective clients are saying about what your competitors are doing.

As you try to figure out ways to counteract your competitors' new strategies, you just might come up with a new big idea yourself.

4. Become a kaleidoscope thinker.

Sometimes, the only way to solve a problem is to turn it over and over in your mind until a different approach or pattern emerges—one that often goes against the conventional way of doing things.

Kaleidoscope thinking is challenging because we all get set in our ways after we've done something for a while. But it's a critical aspect of putting together a winning strategy. Big ideas often surface when you think outside the box and start looking at a familiar issue or situation in a different way.

5. Develop and utilize a creative team.

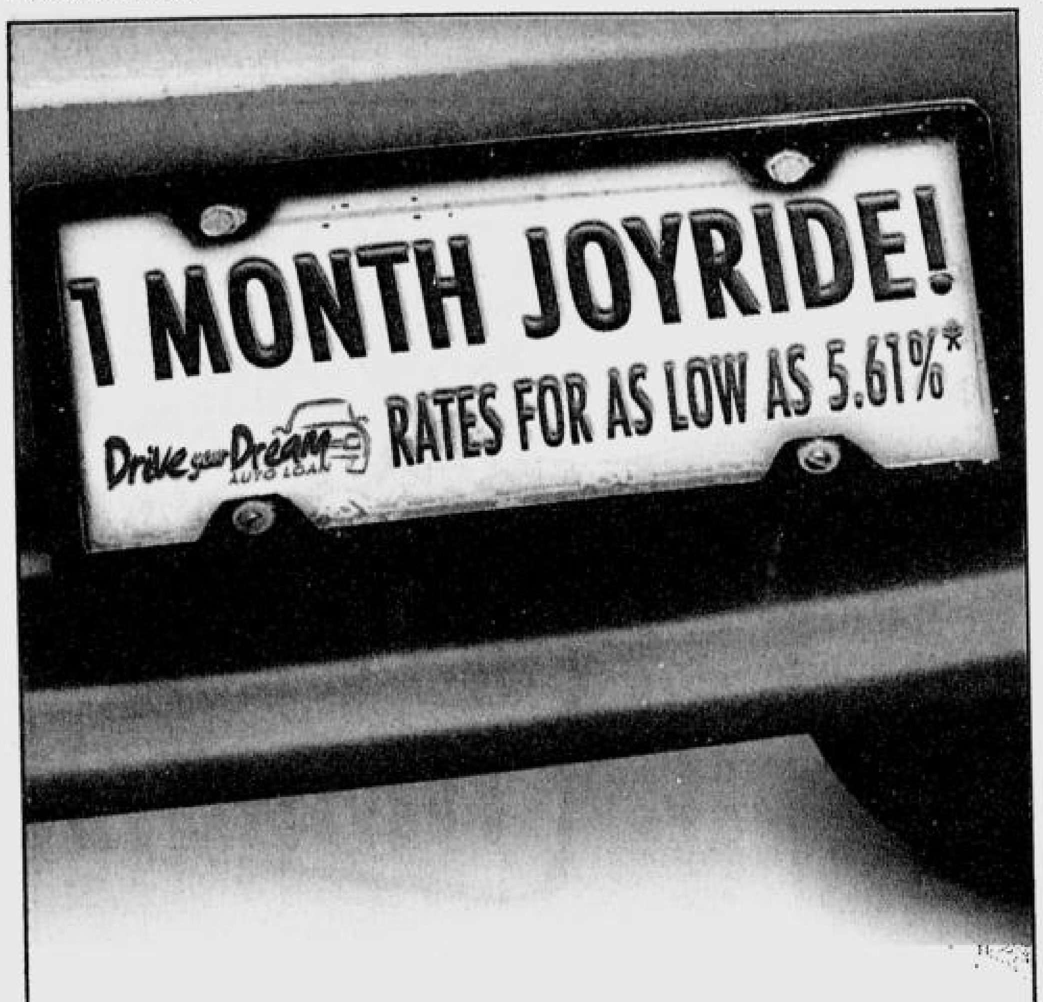
The key to coming up with one great idea is to start with several good ideas. And the best way to create a pool of good ideas is to gather a team of innovative people around a table and practice what I call "shared thinking." The old adage "two heads are better than one" is absolutely true when it comes to putting together a winning strategy.

As the leader, your job is to facilitate the process, but the generation of the big idea is often a group effort.

It doesn't matter if your company is a start-up or an established enterprise with a long history of profitability. If you want to prosper in an era of ever-increasing competitive intensity, a winning strategy is a necessity. Past accomplishments will not guarantee future security.

You must be able to generate a new big idea and then turn it into reality.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership programs, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)



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Philips ties up with Shell group

THE PHILIPS Group of Companies and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. formalized their partnerships towards countryside development with the turnover of Philips' self-powered radio. Portable and easy to use as it operates without battery or electricity, the radio makes information accessible to remote areas in the country made available through Pilipinas Shell.

Mateo said Philips is committed to translate the company's innovations into easy-to-use applications and share these with Filipinos in the countryside.

Chua sees the unique radio as a significant boost ot the company's efforts to bring knowledge and education to outlying communities in the country.

The Netherlands Embassy's commercial attaché Ric Hettinga lauded the partnership "between two Dutch companies to promote sustainability in the countryside."

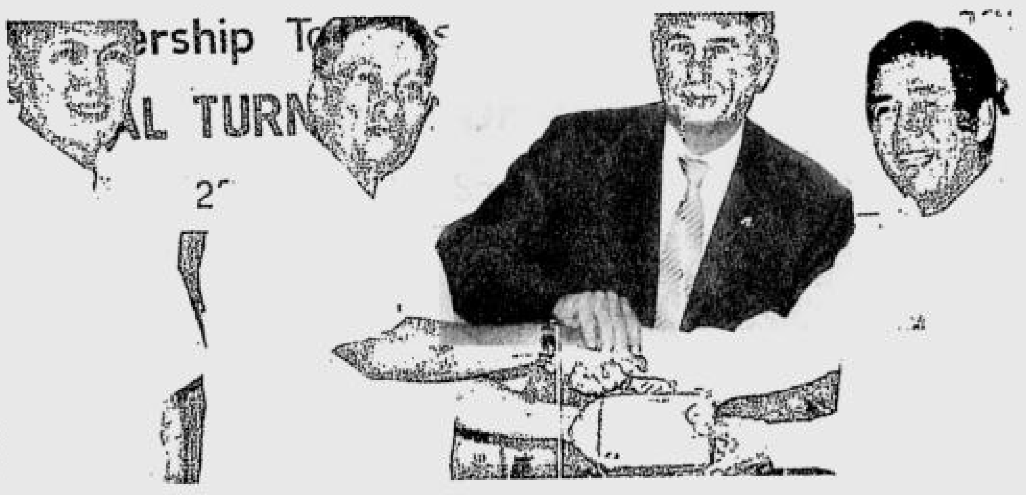

Photo shows Pilipinas Shell Foundation executive director Edgar Veron Cruz, Pilipinas Shell country chair Edgar Chua, Netherlands Embassy commercial Attaché Ric Hettinga and Philips president and CEO Med Mateo.

P&A has new tax partner

BENJAMIN R. Punongbayan, Chair & CEO of public accounting firm Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A), recently announced the promotion of Fulvio D. Dawilan to Partner. A CPA-lawyer, Dawilan has eight years of experience as a tax professional. He joined P&A's Tax Advisory & Compliance Division in 1997, supervising engagements determining clients' compliance with tax rules and regulations, representing clients before the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Finance, addressing tax queries, and handling registration requirements for various companies in the Philippines. Dawilan, who started his career as an external auditor, obtained his law degree from San Beda College and his bachelor's degree in accountancy from St. Louis University in Baguio City.

Wanted: A few good leaders

From page B2-1

offered by Dwight Eisenhower who simply says "Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done, because he or she wants to do it."

As contrasting as the tonalities of these two meanings are, the quintessence of leadership cannot be missed. The first prerequisite of a leader is a clearly articulated VISION. A vision is simply a dream with a deadline. For a leader to be able to be followed willingly without coercion, there must be a buy-in on his vision. And as the song Finian's Rainbow goes " Look, look, look to the rainbow; Follow the fellow who follows the dream." The staff, constituents or followers cannot be persuaded and guided toward an objective when there is no apparent sense of direction and they are not committed to the "dream."

Key to effective Leadership

The bond between the leader and the led is strengthened by shared beliefs, values, ethics, character, knowledge and skills. When a person is deciding if he believes in a leader, he does not consider his accomplishments, achievements or attributes. He fathoms the real character beyond verbal signals. When they are seen to walk the talk. When they show consistency, sincerity and authenticity between their public and private "faces". In fact, leaders are most successful only when they have earned the trust of those they seek to guide.

A Hay's study examined over 75 key components of employee satisfaction in an organization. Trust and confidence in top leadership was the single most reliable predictor. This, combined with effective, regular and two-way communication in three critical areas is vital to winning organizational trust and confidence:

1) Helping employees understand the company's overall business strategy.

2) Helping employees understand how they contribute to achieving key business objectives.

3) Sharing information with employees on both how the company is doing and how the employee's own division is doing-relative to strategic business objectives.

In a nutshell, a leader who is not trusted, and does not have the ability to communicate with lucidity will never be able to wield influence.

Power of leadership

Leadership is often sought for the power that it innately generates. Indeed, there is a strong relationship between power and the authority of the leader. Sadly, the obsession with power often eclipses the responsibility of Leadership. That is how Stalin and other tyrants were able to quietly put millions to death without so much as a ripple of protest from others. Leaders who are loved often empower their people. Leaders who are scorned use their power for force and coercion.

As Abraham Lincoln wisely observed, "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

The author, who is the group chair of Campaigns and Grey earned her Masters of Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard in 2002. She was concurrently a Lucius Littauer Fellow and Edward Mason Awardee. Her M.A.C. (Methodological Area of Concentration) was Leadership. In view of the times, a series on the subject seems apropos. E-mail the author at yolyo@campaignsandgrey

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4. **How to get lots more sales from your ads and mailings.**
   Avoiding the seven deadly sins of direct marketing
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6. **Creating compelling, sticky creatives that deliver response and results:**
   a. How to interrogate your product or service and tease out what sets you apart from your competitors
   b. How to "climb inside" prospects' minds and understand what's most likely to make them act
   c. How to plan and brief so your messages are far more likely to work
   d. Plus, FAQs like the following are answered:
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      - When, what gimmicks work?
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PM Sessions and Topics:
1. **Design and Copy:** How design and layout can help – or kill – response
   a. How to write so people want to start reading - and keep reading so eagerly they can't wait to reply
   b. The thing that's more important than a USP – and how to find it for your business
   c FAQs answered, like:
      - What should go inside an envelope?
      - How long should copy be?
      - How many pieces should a mailing have?
2. **Choosing the right media – Internet, email, tv, direct mail, radio, print?:** Proven formulae and techniques that work in all media, on-line and off, print and broadcast.
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   - How do you get new ideas?
   - Which parts of a layout people look at?
   - How do you convince people you really are good?
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08-03-05

Seeking models for the youth

MEMBERS of the 2005 Tofil committee meet to get inputs on how to broaden the scope of the search for outstanding Filipinos.

THE PHILIPPINE Jaycee Senate and the Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd. are still accepting nominations for the 2005 The Outstanding Filipino (Tofil) Award.

Now on its 18th year, the Tofil Award aims to give recognition to Filipinos, 41 years and older, who have made significant contributions to the advancement of their profession, public welfare and national development. This also serves as a tribute to these outstanding citizens who serve as role models to the Filipino youth to strive for excellence in their endeavors and to contribute to the building of a progressive Philippine society.

Members of the 2005 TofiL Committee headed by this year's chair JCI senator Willie Madarang, vice chair Tony Vidal and search committee chair Mars Pineda have been unrelenting in their effort to search for less known but equally deserving individuals to be nominated to Tofil. "There are many Filipinos who have been doing outstanding work in their own fields and making significant contributions to society quietly, and without fun-fare. These are the people we want to bring to public attention so that they can inspire us to love our country, work for the common good, and make a difference for our countrymen," says Madarang.

Any individual or organization may nominate a candidate on the official Tofil nomination form. For more information, call 374-4390 and 412-5662 or 771-1818. Nomination forms may also be downloaded from www.tofil.ph. Nominations should cover accomplishments up to June 30, 2005. Deadline nominations is Aug. 31, 2005.

Honoring blue-collar workers

From page B2-4

wanted to work. Any work will do," Opider tells Business Monday.

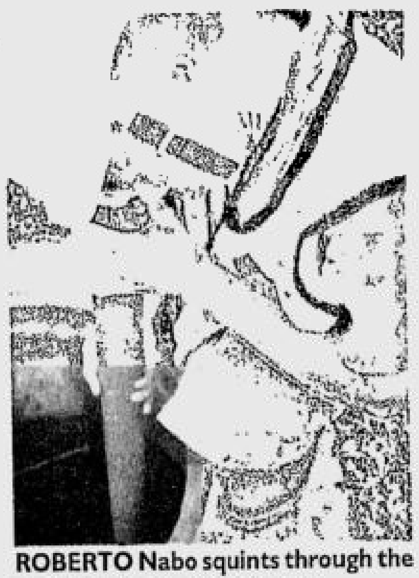
He stayed there for three years, went to Saudi Arabia for a time, went back to the province, then found himself back in Manila, working for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems.

Opider may have changed jobs many times, but one thing has remained constant—his love for putting in an honest day's work.

It is a love that he shares with other employees of Manila Water who earlier won both the Huwarang Manggagawa and Tower awards, namely Wolfredo Macasaet, Jerybell Serquina and Robert Nabo.

Macasaet won the award for his ability to make quick decisions to ensure reliable water service in Makati where he is in charge of the network. He is always there to fix a leak and to help Manila Water's customers.

Nabo won acclaim for his work ethic and personal invention—the meterscope—allowing him to read below-the ground water meters, thus, saving the company time and money on reading underwater meters.



ROBERTO Nabo squints through the meterscope, an invention he fashioned himself to read underground meters.

Serquina, on the other hand, is known in the industry for his ability to weld mammoth pipes during emergency breakages. He learned everything on the job and he is usually called upon to help when there are major leaks, even if does not concern Manila Water.

The three started as ditch diggers, laying water pipes under the heat of the sun or the cold rain, and are now looked upon as prime examples of an ideal Manila Water employee.

Opider is the latest addition to Manila Water's growing number of Huwarang Manggagawa and Tower awardees, giving Manila Water the most number of Tower awardees among Ayala companies.

The four said they did not expect the awards as they were just going about their daily routines in the way they thought they should.

All they want, they said, was to be a good example to other employees and make them proud of their jobs, no matter how small they may seem.

"There is still something to be said about being diligent and hard working. Something good does happen if you are industrious. And no job is small. We all have our purpose," Macasaet said in Filipino.

Earn from distressed property

TO LEARN more techniques on how to profitably invest in distressed property, the Urban Institute of Real Estate invites investors to attend a seminar on "Making Big Money in Distressed Properties" at the 2nd floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City on Sept. 7, from 1:30 to 6 p.m.

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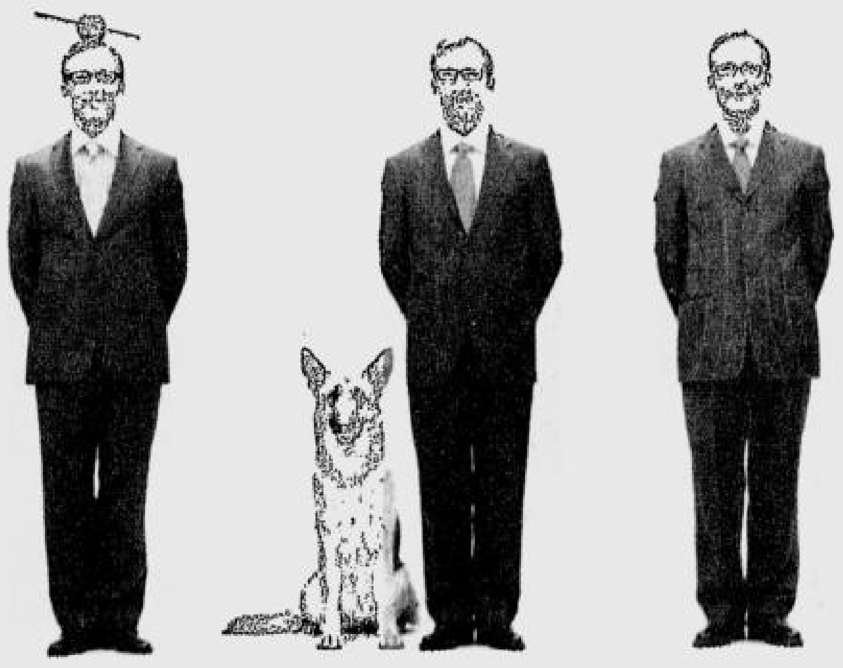

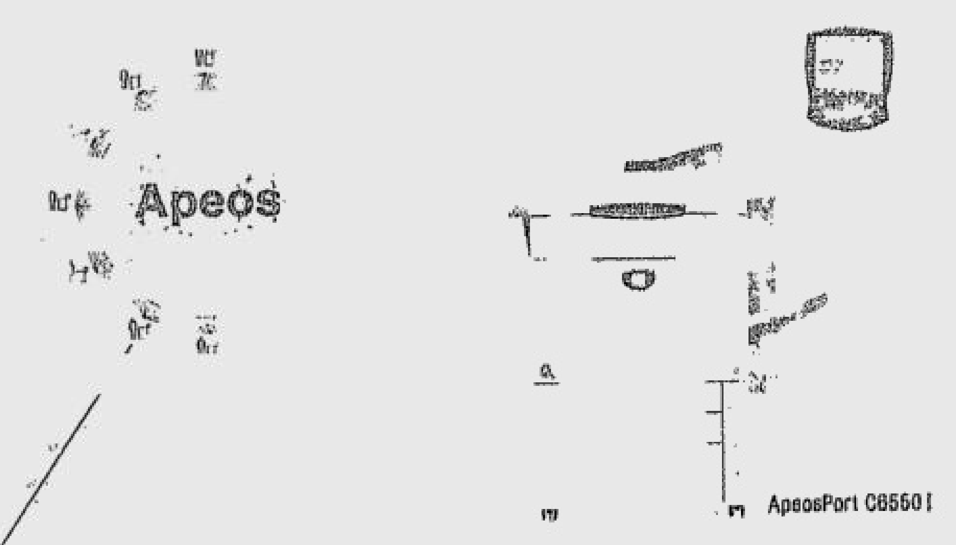

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*1 Apeos Internet Integration Framework is based on XML. *2 Option. Applicable to ApeosPort C6550I/C5540I series. *3 A4 LEF with ApeosPort C6550I. For ApeosPort C5540I, 55ppm (monochrome) and 40ppm (colour). *4 600dpi when scanning in A4 LEF with high capacity duplex automatic document feeder. Scanning speed of 55ppm (monochrome) and 40ppm (colour) with duplex automatic document feeder. *5 Binary scanning only for ApeosPort C6550I monochrome

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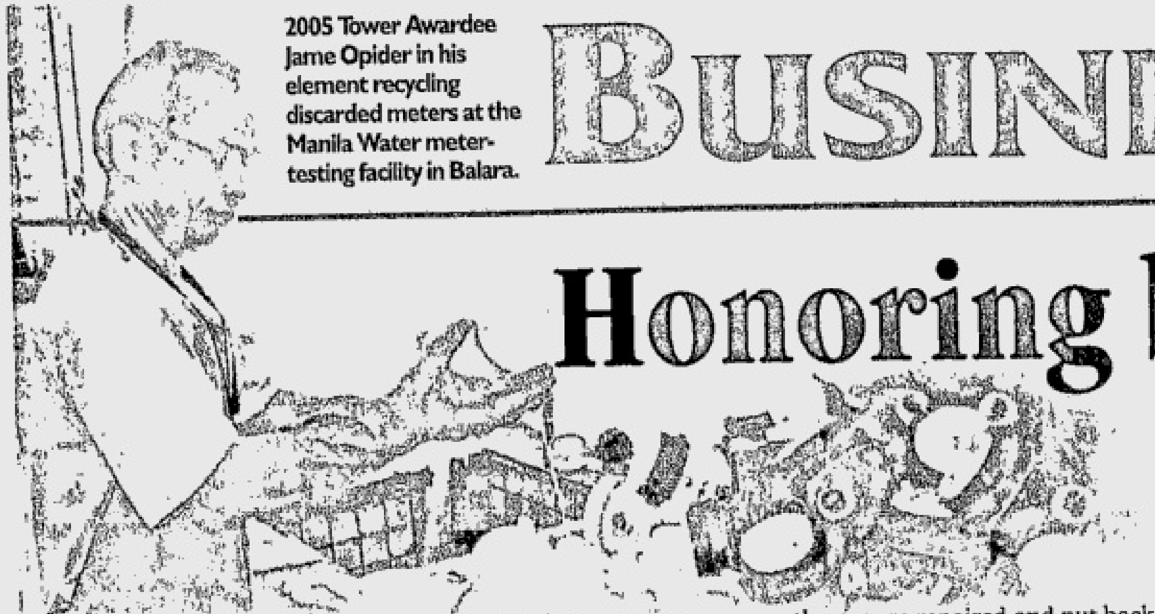


2005 Tower Awardee Jame Opider in his element recycling discarded meters at the Manila Water meter-testing facility in Balara.

Honoring blue-collar workers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FOR JAIME Opider of East Zone water distributor Manila Water Co. Inc., work is its own reward.

Thus, Opider thinks nothing of putting in extra hours to complete his tasks. He does what he is supposed to, quietly and with enthusiasm, and dreams up new ways to help his company.

As a meter services worker at the Balara meter shop, for instance, Opider had the bright idea to save the company some money by properly segregating the thousands of dismounted water meters that go through his shop.

Those that still had some life in them were repaired and put back in operation. The rest were sold as scrap metal.

In less than a year, Opider generated some P3 million in revenues for Manila Water from the sale of the dismounted meters, and saved the company some more by extending the useful life of the meters.

He did it because he felt it was the right thing to do. And his efforts did not go unnoticed.

Last year, the 49-year-old was the runaway winner of Manila Water's top award for employees - the "Huwarang Manggagawa."

He won by the biggest margin in the seven-year history of the employee awards.

"Jims was chosen because with quiet, noble dignity, he gave himself fully to a job that many may find inconsequential, but which in fact contributes positively to Manila Water's cost management efforts," says Monchito Mossesgeld, human resource head of Ayala Corp., and one of the judges for the awards.

Manila Water was not the only one to recognize his efforts.

Opider was recently given The Outstanding Workers of the Republic Award, the highest award given to blue collar workers and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Manila.

He was one of this year's awardees deemed an inspiration for all skilled workers nationwide.

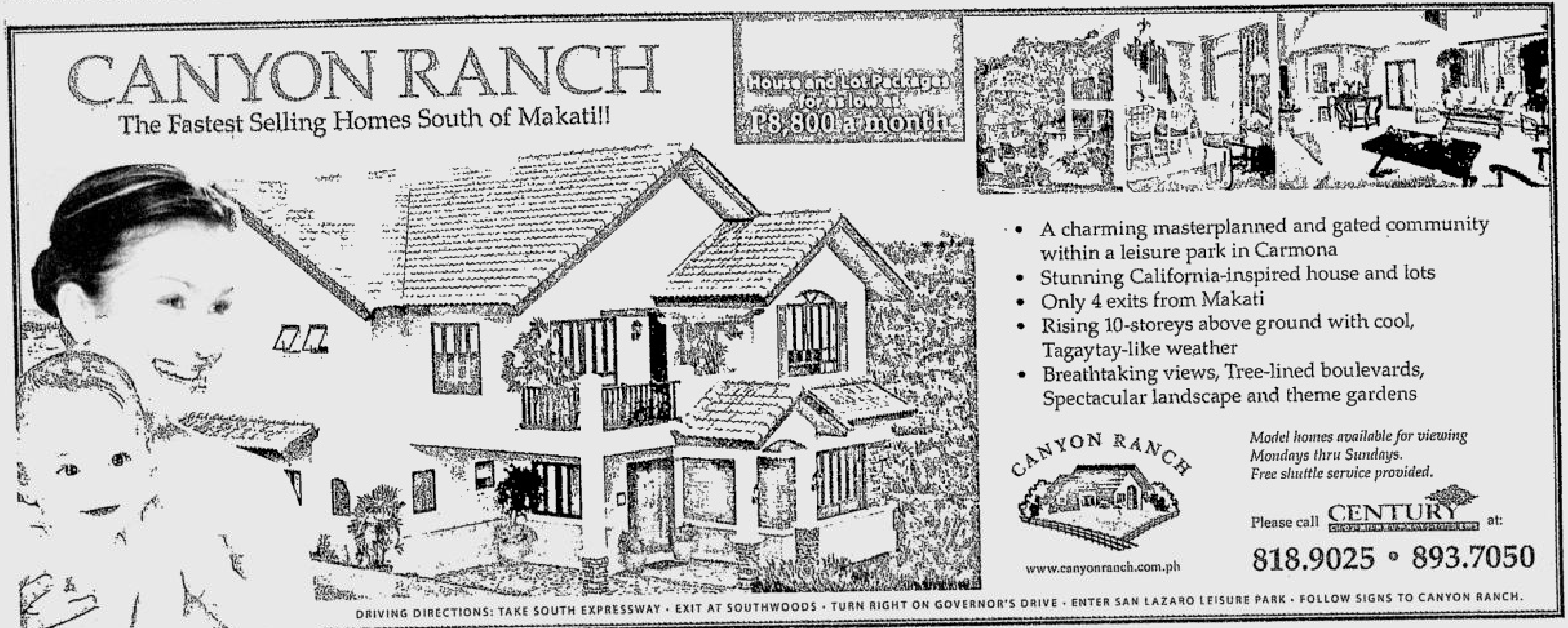
Opider has been working since he was a teenager because his family was too poor to send him through college.

The eldest of nine children, Opider left his hometown in Surigao del Norte to try his luck in Metro Manila.

He went through a string of odd jobs, from gasoline boy to gardener, before landing a job in the repair shop of the Philippine National Construction Corp.

"Some said it would not be a nice job, but I did not care. I just

HONORING/ B2-3



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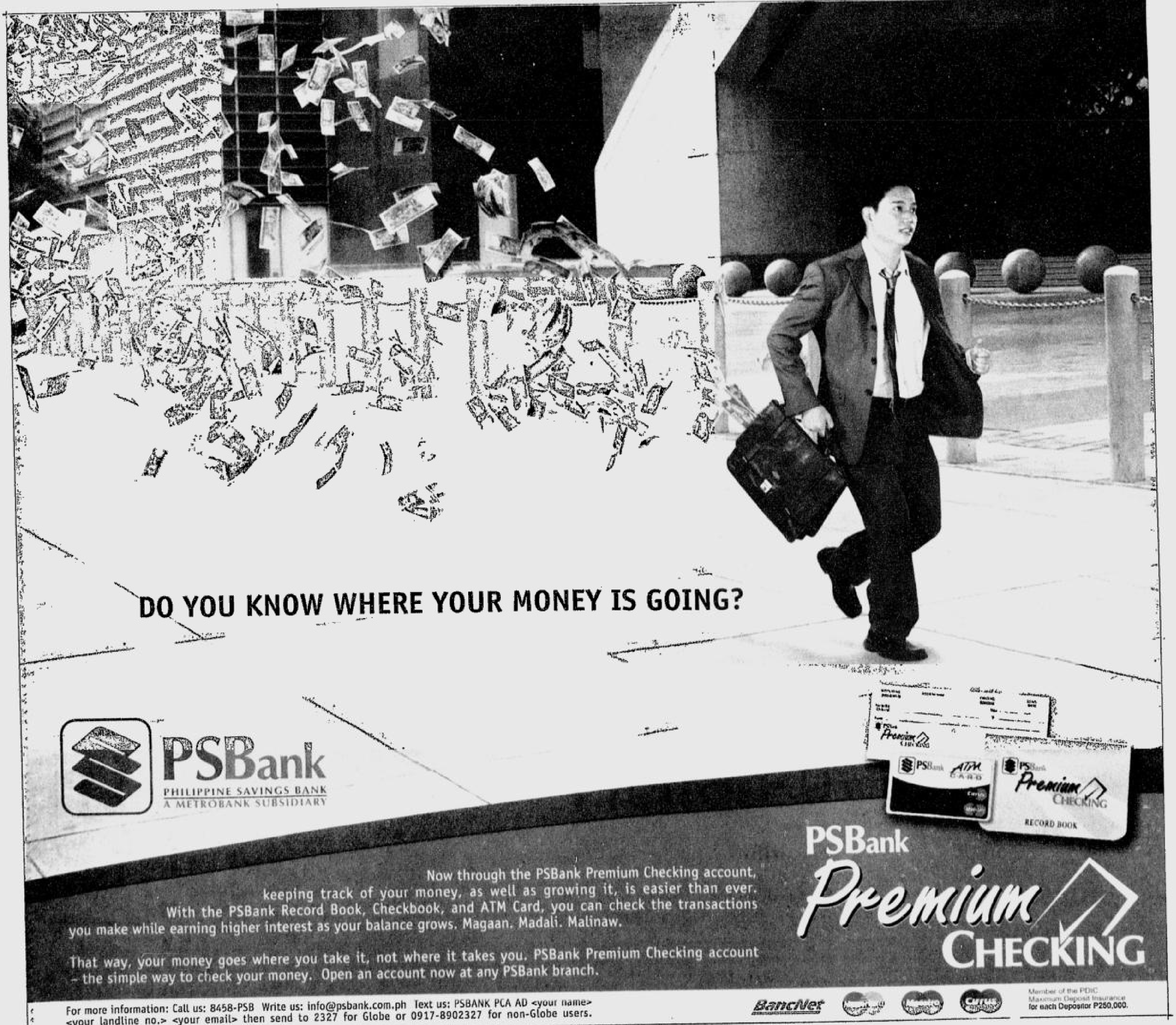

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LIFESTYLE

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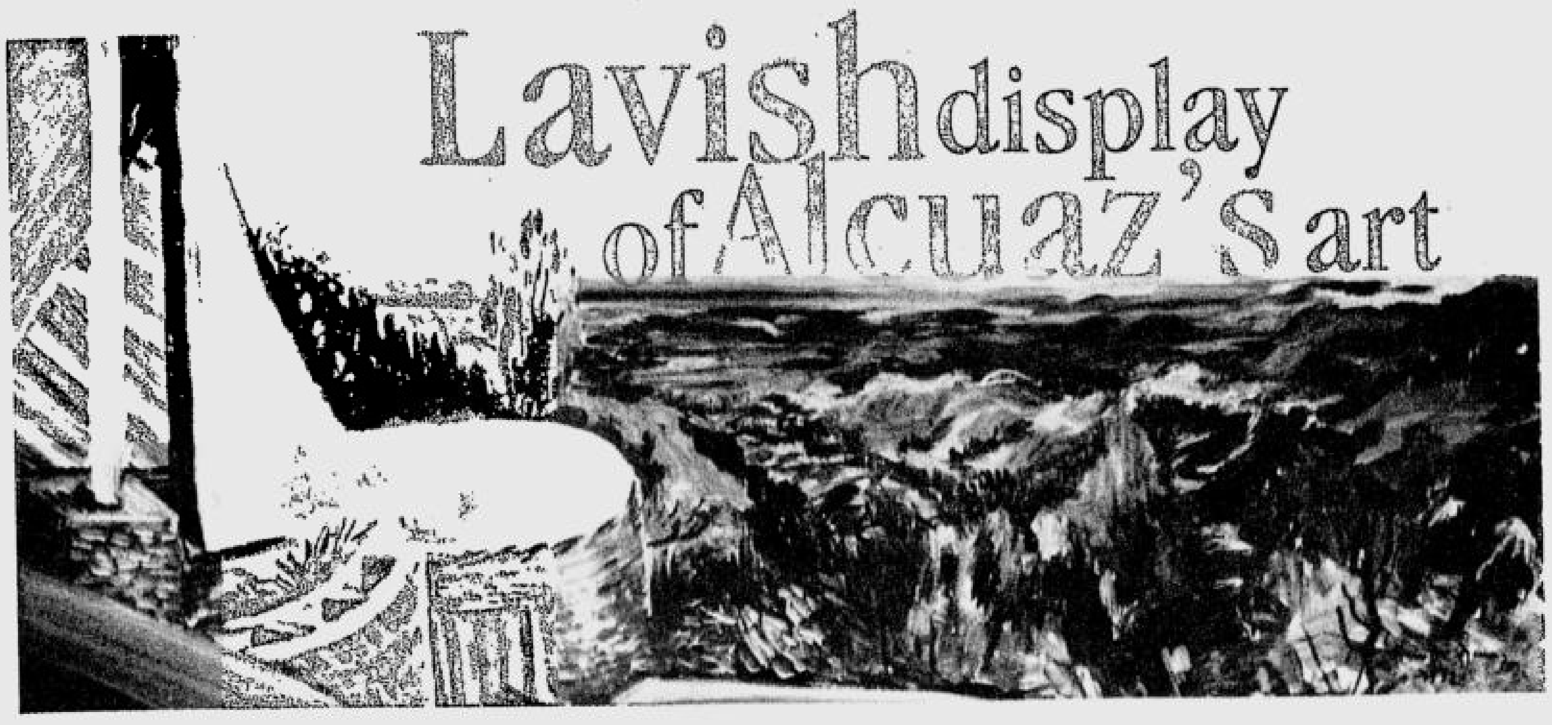
Lavish display of Alcuaz's art



"TAAL" I

By Constantino C. Tejero

WHETHER or not he's in Manila or abroad, whether he's here or anywhere, Federico Aguilar Alcuaz is one of the few artists whose presence hounds us.

Just when he's completely out of our mind for some time, a painting or drawing of his turns up in a mall. It's not that he's so prolific his artworks are scattered all over Metro Manila—but that almost any artwork by him draws such attention that seeing a single piece seems to be seeing so many.

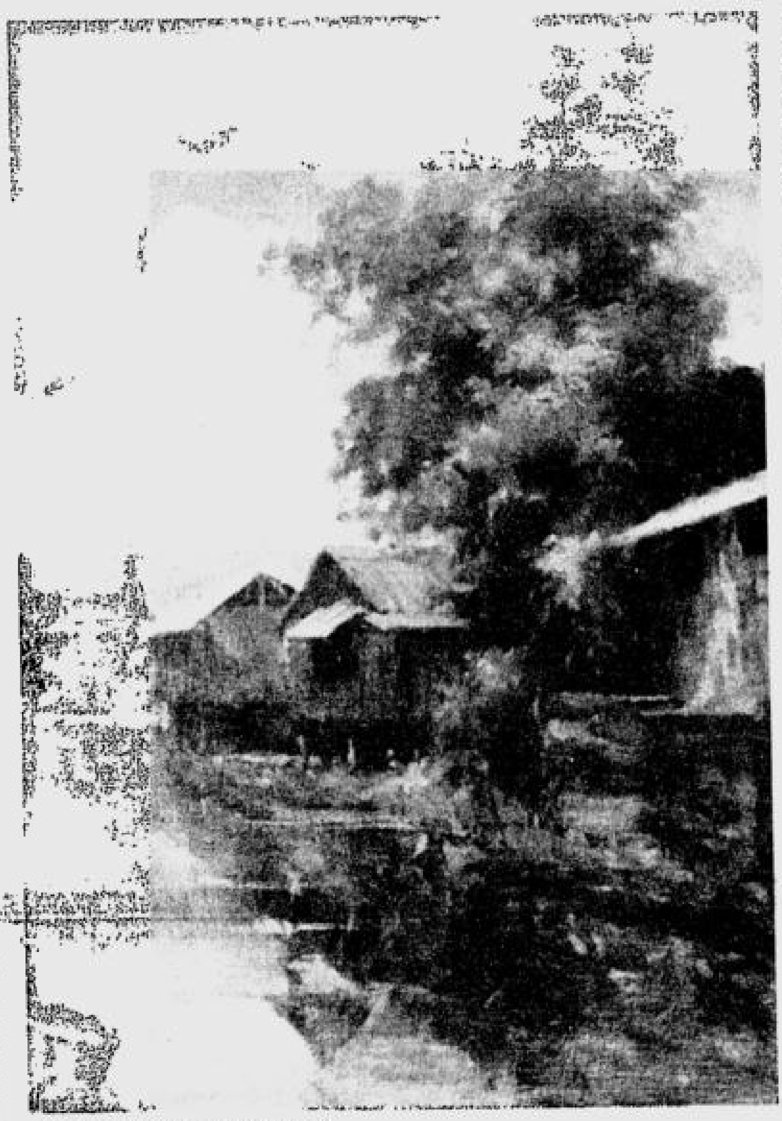
Take that "Tres Marias" portrait, for instance, part of the permanent collection of one gallery. We've seen it several times, yet every time we happen to pass by that area, we can't help from stopping on our track, standing in front of the painting, and contemplating the image, before proceeding on our way.

Like a reverent before an altar, we stare and stare, and keep wondering how the artist blended pigment and oil so that the maidens' skin fairly glows. The piece gives the uncanny impression of being freshly painted and the canvas still wet, though it was painted two decades ago.

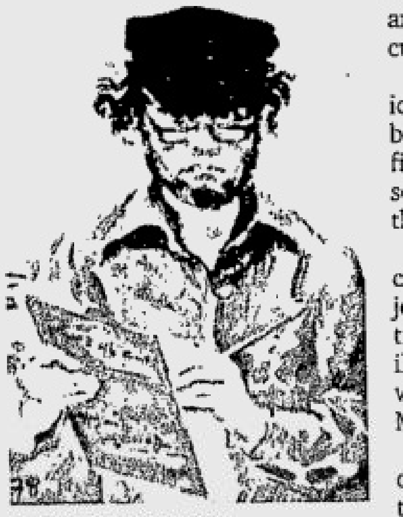
It is Alcuaz's mystique as artist as well as the value of his art that lingers, like the proverbial monkey clinging on one's back and not letting go. Maybe that's why we get this unsettling impression that we encounter him everywhere.

Melting quality

A full frontal encounter with Alcuaz's art is afforded the passionate art-lovers and casual gallery-goers in the three-part exhibit "Passionate Eyes," until Oct. 5 at G/F Gallery of Ayala Museum on Makati Avenue and De la Rosa Street, Makati City.



"SAN Francisco del Monte"



"SELF-PORTRAIT"

Here are over 200 artworks: tapestries, drawings, bronze pieces, paintings ranging from portraits and landscapes to still lifes and abstracts, and the so-called Alcuazaics (op art in mixed media).

The exhibit, curated by art critic and artist Rod Paras-Perez, has been staggered in three sets. The first is ongoing until Aug. 8; the second on Aug. 9-Sept. 5; and the third on Sept. 6-Oct. 5.

"Parallel Texts," the exhibition catalogue based on the artist's journals with annotation and critique by Paras-Perez, and lavishly illustrated with photos of artworks, is available for sale at the Museum Shop.

Viewing the landscapes in oil on canvas, from his early rendition of San Francisco del Monte in the 1950s through Palma de Mallorca in the '60s, New York in the '70s, and Barcelona in the '90s, one can see why eminent art critic Leo Benesa once raved: "Alcuaz is probably the best landscapist the country has ever produced."

In his hand, the land seems to melt, as earth, water and air become one. A similar melting quality can be seen in his rendition of human flesh and skin, as witness many of the portraits (ranging from the nude to the overdressed).

Strong color sense

In the paintings as well as tapestries, Alcuaz uses deep vibrant colors, mostly cool ones, with luminous highlights particularly in the portraits. Typical is accentuation, such as a color plane dominated by cobalt-blue then broken by a small stroke of carnelian or magenta.

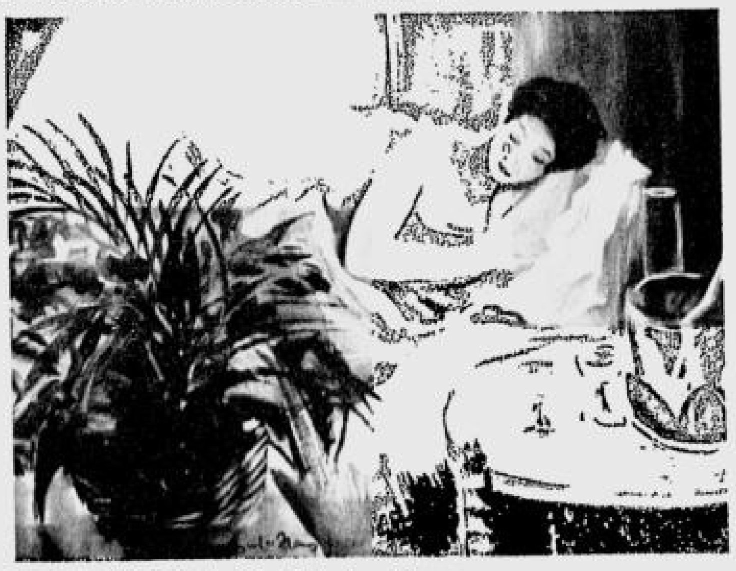
The brushstrokes run from brisk or vigorous to smooth or delicate, though chiefly broad. The lines are quite expressive, ranging from jagged and abrupt to continuous and fluid.

Alcuaz studied Law at Ateneo de Manila University and took up Fine Arts at University of the Philippines, where he studied sculpture under Guillermo Tolentino and painting under Fernando Amorsolo, Irineo Miranda, Constancio Ma. Bernardo and Toribio Herrera. He also attended lectures by Fernando Zobel.

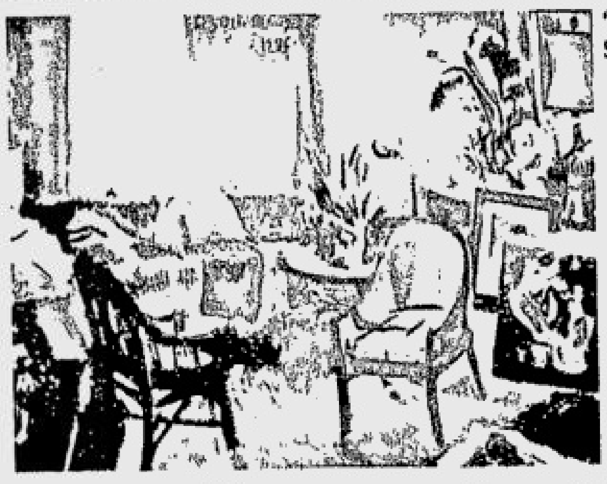
Among his contemporaries are José Joya, Napoleon Abueva and Juvenal Sansó.

After getting his law degree, he proceeded on a fellowship to Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando in Madrid—the school attended by Luna, Hidalgo, Fabian de la Rosa, and his UP mentor Amorsolo.

He has since been traveling from Spain to Germany to Czechoslovakia while still basing himself at a Manila hotel, where he's a constant presence. As a consequence, the art he produces has an unmistakably European flavor about it, though the heart is still resolutely Filipino.



"RECLINING Maria," by Federico Alcuaz

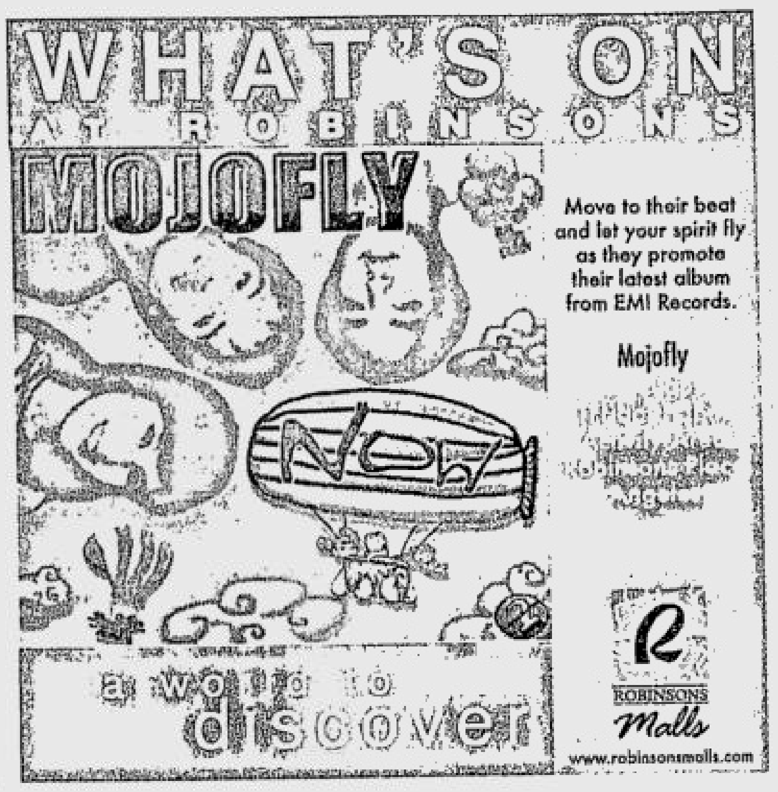


"ARTIST'S Studio"

More Alcuaz works at Nine

"A MASTER'S Studio" features works by Federico Aguilar Alcuaz done in the '80s and '90s. The exhibit runs until Aug. 17 at Gallery Nine, Artwalk, SM Megamall.

Alcuaz's works are auction-house favorites in Hong Kong and Singapore. Call 6877302.



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Public sensitivity is the crux of the matter in heritage preservation. But is there a public to begin with?

MEHAN GARDEN. Another playing field for development and avarice

ROOSEVELT (former Jai Alai) CLUB MANILA
126

JAI ALAI BUILDING. Toppled by City Hall's greed for new constructions

Beyond textbook conservation

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

LETTER writer Richard Boncewski sent his feedback: "Before commenting on your article, 'Remember the Jai Alai,' may I introduce myself. I am a prospective graduate student in historical preservation at Eastern Michigan University.

"The last four months, I have been visiting my wife here in Alcala (Spain)... A part of [the four months] has been taken up by the renovation of our house, and the formulation of a strategy to resurrect metaphorical ghosts in historical structures, or the evocation of the past as tangibly as possible, without resort to conjecture, to replicate the flavor of a particular period.

"Last year, during my first visit to the Philippines, the vocabulary of the locally constructed *bahay-na-bato* caught my eye... a trip to Vigan introduced me to colonial ancestral houses, especially Syquia Mansion, where seemingly the spirits of the house and its former inhabitants spoke through the caretaker.

"While your remarks ring true in sentiment and are correct in content, they remind me too much of textbook preservation and the new critical writings about the pie-in-the-sky potentialities of historical preservation toward any number of ends other than reservation.

"Every good building lost, either humble or remarkable, is a senseless loss. Every occasion when a Jai Alai or a Penn Station [demolished and replaced by Madison Square Garden, a celebrated 1970s conservation issue in New York City] is demolished, a grand theater is converted into yet another shopping complex (redo, eh?), a traditional house redolent with memories and cultural residue is dismembered for the lumber... or even the desecration of a door by thoughtless workmen, as was the case in the course of renovation... we should be outraged.

"However, the outrage at the wanton destruction of historical structures or natural/sacred sites should not stem from a personal sense of nostalgia. Instead, let's rage at the desensitization of people to any Place or any Thing possessing the quality of the extraordinary, or that which transcends Newness."

I agree with Mr. Boncewski. Public sensitivity is the crux of the issue.

Since the dawn of the conservation movement 20 years ago, the level of sensitivity has increased but sadly not rising to the enlightened level where opposing sectors are able to arrive at a common understanding of what to conserve and how to do it.

Nor is there a public or private forum that has evolved to help parties arrive at a consensus. Conservation remains a volatile, adversarial issue in the Philippines today, as the Jai Alai, Mehan Garden and Arroceros Forest Park issues prove.

Boncewski continues: "Let me tell you a story with some relevance to the Jai Alai. Last year, the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco and the deYoung Museum in Golden Gate Park were demolished to make way for a new, larger postmodern deYoung in the park.

"Within the walls of the latter, the spirit of 1965 avant garde was represented in the human scale, the open yet intimate galleries, and the airy, light-filled public spaces.

"The argument for making the collection fit into a turn-of-the-century *beaux artes* [sic] library was the increased space to exhibit more of the collection. Administration, conservation and education departments enjoy more room, and the higher ceilings allow for the larger contemporary installations. Over all, though, the majority of the collection is lost in the vastness and the endless warren that now serve as galleries.

"The deYoung was constructed for the 1939 World's Fair... when San Francisco resonated within the precincts of this Spanish Colonial revival structure. For me, the California spirit itself resided there. The famous bell tower, along with the galleries, is being replaced by a building which makes 'references' to the old deYoung. The reasoning is the same as with the Asian: more space.

Looking forward

"Sounds familiar? What's done is done, but let's look forward. Educate people and business to the manifold benefits of preservation. Governments can encourage preservation by enforcement of laws and the development of tax incentives. Foremost, private organizations can control properties through revolving funds and foundations. Thereby preservationists need not grovel at the feet of developers, or, for that matter, the Department of Education."

Familiar? Yes, indeed. The recommendations, generalized solutions to conservation, have been tried in the local situation with limited success.

How are people and business educated about the benefits of conservation? The conception is still that, conservation is opposed to business. Education is a slow process that in the Philippine situation, requires concrete examples rather than academic rhetoric.

Among the little-known concrete examples of conservation are the DepEd Heritage Schoolhouse Restoration Program of the Heritage Conservation Society ; the international award-winning restorations of the Gota de Leche and Nielson Towers buildings in Manila and Makati (both recipients of the Unesco Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Awards); the outstanding restoration of the Far Eastern University campus; and the community-based Cebu Heritage Frontier Project of the Ramón Aboitiz Foundation.

The international and national notice the projects have received has not been enough to influence decision-makers on the value of conservation.

"In spite of the inherent ethical and legal dangers of involving oneself in real-estate management, in my unqualified opinion that and adaptive reuse are the future of historical preservation in countries with a less developed preservation ethos," writes Boncewski.

"As for the Arrocero Forest," he continues, "I commend the National Museum for not giving any more ground. To secure one's interests, one does not go along to get along. How absurd it is to propose that a one-room museum is compensation enough to the National Museum and Manileños for the trashing of the forest and the archeological site.

"If construction happens, the door is opened to further compromises. Anyway, the idea of a small museum to commemorate the desecration of an archeological site is a laughable exercise.

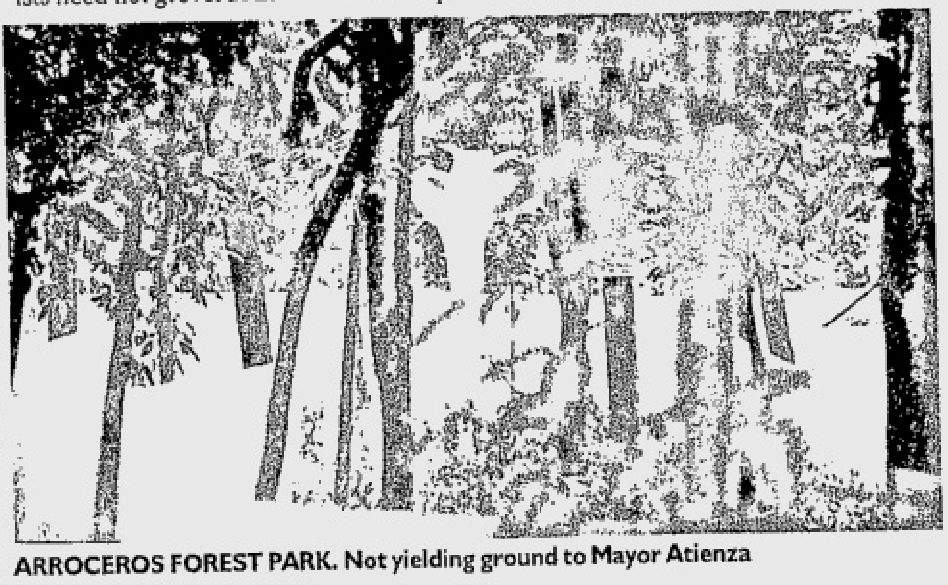
"Let the DepEd build elsewhere," he admonishes.

Maybe the DepEd should, indeed, build elsewhere. That is something that I would love to believe would happen. But, let's face it, will it ever?

Since Mayor Lito Atienza and the Winner Foundation have painted themselves into opposing corners, it looks as if it is too late in the day to arrive at an acceptable solution for the Forest Park.

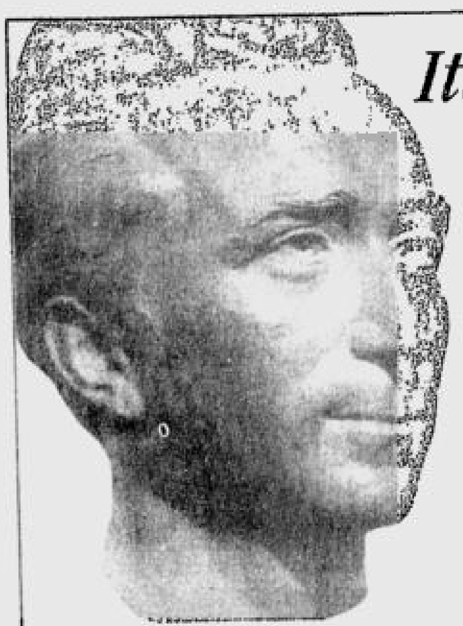
Just think of how crafting a win-win solution to the Arroceros Forest Park impasse would impact on the local conservation movement. It would prove that conservation is dynamic, that to be successful it must happen within the local context, and that for conservation to happen in a "less developed preservation ethos," as Mr Boncewski says, everyone has to win a little and lose a little.

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com.



ARROCEROS FOREST PARK. Not yielding ground to Mayor Atienza

Italian sculptor Francesco Monti remembered in UST exhibit



BRONZE cast of Monti by P. Ferraroni, 1974

STATUES of St. Vincent de Beauvais, St. Augustine of Hippo, and St. Raymond of Penafort atop the UST Main Bldg.

"FRANCESCO Riccardo Monti in the Philippines" is a photo exhibit of public sculptures and small-scale plaster cast works by the Italian sculptor from Cremona who lived in Manila in 1929-1958. The exhibit runs Aug. 12-Sept. 30 at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Museum of Arts and Sciences.

In three decades in the Philippines, Monti collaborated with Filipino artists and architects to create public sculptures that have become familiar markers in the country.

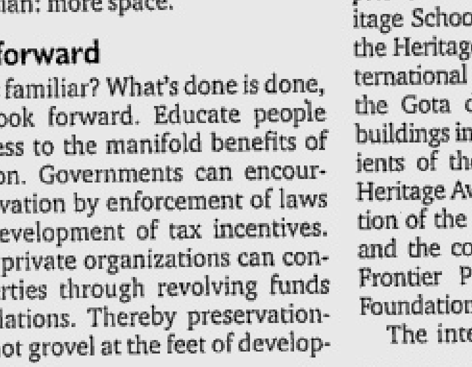
Among Monti's major collaborations were with architect Juan Arellano for the Metropolitan Theater in Manila and the Iloilo City Municipal Hall (now part of the UP Iloilo City campus). Monti also worked with architects Pablo Antonio and José Maria Zaragoza and Conrado de Leon, founder of the House of Precasts.

Monti was a professor at the then UST College of Architecture and Fine Arts in 1948-1958. He was the first to teach courses in sculpture. Among his students were the late Ang Kiukok and Virginia Ty-Navarro, and Ting Ping Lay, who is known for his small-scale bronze cast figures.

Perhaps Monti's most visible sculptures are those that stand prominently at the top of the UST Main Building as well as the high reliefs of St. Dominic and the Battle of La Naval on the façade of the Santo Domingo Church in Quezon City.

The project is sponsored by the Committee on Art Galleries-National Commission for Culture and the Arts; UP College of Arts and Letters Foundation, Inc.; and UST Museum. Special assistance is provided by the Embassy of Italy and Philippine-Italian Association.

Call 7811815, or visit www.ustmuseum.com.



HIGH relief depicting Battle of La Naval at Santo Domingo Church

TRIA Haec ("These Three"—faith, hope and charity) atop UST Main Bldg.

Intramuros guidebook launched

CIUDAD MURADA

THE INTRAMUROS Administration with Vibal Publishing House Inc. will launch the Intramuros historical guidebook, "Ciudad Murada: A Walk Through Historic Intramuros," on Aug. 11, 4 p.m. at Casa Blanca, Plaza San Luis Complex, Intramuros, Manila.

Written by IA senior researcher and Palanca Award-winning writer, Jose Victor Z. Torres, the guidebook features general facts and trivia about the Walled City of Intramuros from the pre-colonial Filipino settlement of Maynila until the present-day district in modern Manila.

With a foreword by INQUIRER heritage columnist Augusto F. Villalon and an afterword by former National Commission for the Culture and the Arts chair Dr. Jaime C. Laya, the book also features never-before-published archival photos. The work is written like a tour guide book so visitors as well as scholars and researchers are brought around the Walled City and filled in on the historical facts of the area they go through. The book is a must for local and foreign visitors to Intramuros.

Call the Intramuros Administration at 5273141, 52731[illegible] and 5273102.

Kids invited to geology presentation

GEOLOGIST and curator Roberto S.P. de Ocampo will present highlights of the National Museum's 20,000 geology specimen collection of fossil shells, plants, mammals and fish, rocks, minerals and crystals. Children ages 6 and up are encouraged to attend the presentation.

De Ocampo co-authored "Incredible Mysteries: Natural Wonders of the World," best children's literature in 1996.

Call the Museum Foundation (4042685). For members and children, the fee is P50, for non-members, P100. Visit www.museumfoundationphils.com.

Arrogante at Avellana, 'Intransit' at Big & Small, Moss at West

VISUAL ARTS

RAL ARROGANTE'S "Dogs, Life and Love," an exhibit of his latest sculptural pieces, opens today, at Avellana Art Gallery. Made from raw or discarded materials (wires, spark plugs, copper sheets) from junk shops, these creations pay homage to man's best friend, portrayed in various comical situations like stargazing from a rooftop, peeing by a swing, or riding a motorized *bakya*. Small in scale, the works immediately call attention to their details, which are bent, crimped, tied and spun to become enlightened versions of childhood shapes. The works are decidedly tongue-in-cheek but the conflict between the severity of the medium and the humor of the subject imbues them with a touch of irony and satire. Avellana Art Gallery is at A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.

BIG & Small Art Co. presents the group show "Intransit" until today at 4/F, Artwalk, Bldg. A, SM Megamall. Participating artists are Ronald Ventura, Pedro Garcia, Joe Vitug, Niel Arvin Javier, Lynyrd Paraz, Florence Sinco, Mitch Empleyo-Ventura, Michelle Lim, Marga, Roldan Ventura, Ryan Rubio, Roen Capule, Demostrenes Campos, Salvador Ching, Ruel Caasi, Ferdinand Montemayor, Dr. Joel Mendez, Guerrero Habulan, Joey Cobcobo, Eric Guazon, Zamora, Rodel Tapaya, Marina Cruz, Antido and Wesley Valenzuela.

JASON Moss' "Self-Destruct Mode: Collages" is running in West Gallery at Mary Santos Artcade, 48 West Ave., QC, until Aug. 20. Call 4119221 or 4110336.

RICCO-RENZO Galleries mounts Aaron Pormarejo's "All This Time," on Aug. 9-Sept. 15, at G/F, LRI Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel Air II, Makati. The artist showcases abstract works with morning, noon and night as themes. Call 8982542/43/45.

FERNANDO B. Sena mounts "Senario" until Aug. 15 at 4/F, Cinema, Citywalk 2, Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Sena's landscapes focuses on the unspoiled beauty of nature.

CULTURAL Center of the Philippines' Pasilyo Carlos Francisco (Little Theater Lobby Hall) presents "Banglos: From Tragedy to Creativity" on Aug. 11-28. The exhibit features wood sculptures of 30 artists from Barangay Banglos, General Nakar, Quezon. Call 8323702.

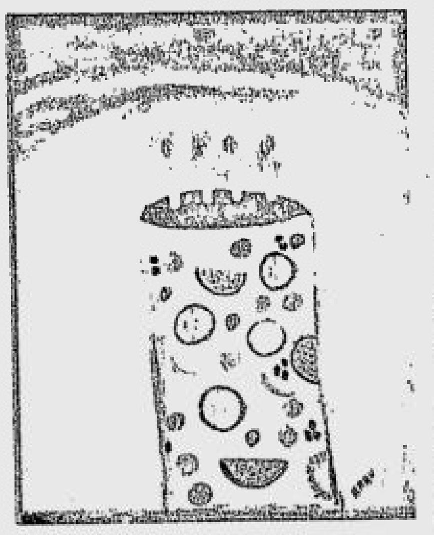
AYALA Museum features Arturo Luz's "Sculptures" until Aug. 31 at Makati Ave. cor De la Rosa St., Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 7577117.

"CAKES" can be viewed on Aug. 12-Sept. 10 in Le Soufflé at Fernando's, G/F, Amorsolo Square, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati. Call 4502996.

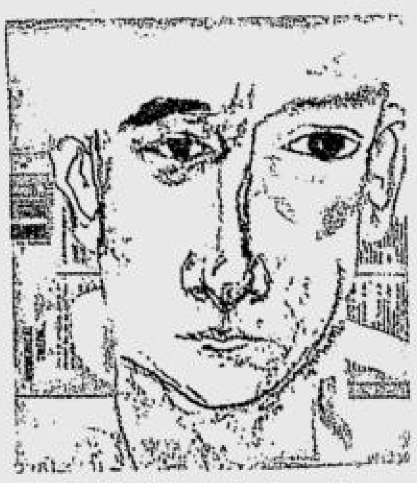
AYALA Museum showcases "Harvest of Saints" until Nov. 13 at its 4/L gallery, Makati Ave. cor De la Rosa St., Makati. The exhibit presents Philippine religious paintings from the 19th century from the collection of Vicky Vizcarra Amalingan. Call 7577117 to 21.

BIG & Small Art Co. features "Great Artists Series" until Aug. 19 at SM Megamall. The series presents free special film screenings on French impressionist painter Claude Monet, French sculptor Auguste Rodin and American painter and etcher James McNeill Whistler. Call 0917-9191618 or 6877425.

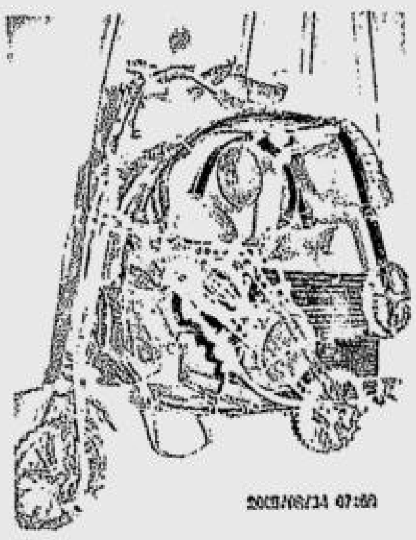
NUDE ROOM was recently inaugurated at Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo St., Barangay San Antonio, Makati. Featured are the works of women artists Shirley Craford from Canada; Shibani Mishra, India; Vanitha Jayaselan, Singapore; Jessie Ooi, Malaysia; Kimiko Okamura, Japan; and Susan Mendoza, US. Call 8112432.



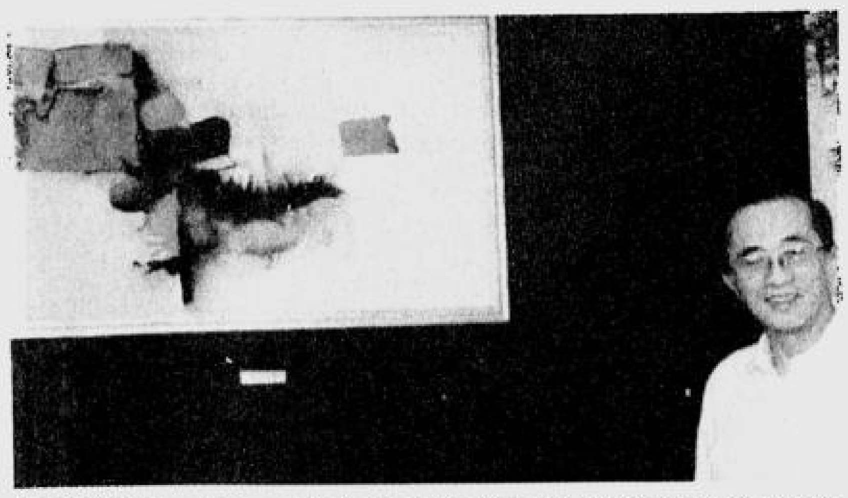
"CAKES," by Erbu



"TWO-FACE Man," by Jason Moss



SCULPTURE by Ral Arrogante



ROCKWELL Land Corporation's The Manansala, a twin-tower development in the east block of Rockwell Center, is home to "A Reproduction of Fish" (1966), a 22x35 oil painting on canvas by Vicente S. Manansala. The artwork comes from the collection of Mr. and Ms Oscar Lopez. "A Reproduction of Fish" is now the centerpiece of the Asian-inspired grand lobby of The Manansala.

TAM AUSTRIA holds a plaque of recognition from the University of Rizal System in Morong, Rizal, for holding an art workshop there. He is flanked by Mary Divine Austria, arts and sciences dean Paz de Leon, psychology teacher Niclie Tira-Tira, program supervisor Nelson Gonzales and students. Austria is renowned for his detailed paintings of beautiful women and traditional subjects as well as his aesthetic philosophy.

Multimedia arts exhibit

FIFTEEN students from the graduating class of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde's BA Multimedia Arts program will mount "Fusion" on Aug. 10-13 at LRI Business Plaza at 210 Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City.

"Fusion" will feature works in graphic illustration and design; Web design and development, interactive programs, 2D and 3D animation, photography; video production; and other multimedia works.

"Fusion" opens at 5 p.m. on Aug. 10, with DJ Chip playing music. Sponsors include Digital Tour, "Magandang Umaga Pilipinas," Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chalk Magazine, Habi Home Interiors and Dexact.

The left and the right

From page C4

The right lobe finds difficulty understanding abstract concepts. It wants "to see, feel or touch the real object." It is constantly asking for explanations of statements such as: "Only consciousness can discover itself as consciousness." (I could only understand something after I had been given an example of it or when I have validated it personally, which may be good for philosophies of life but very bad for math, physics and geometry).

Thus, the left brain can easily copy, on canvas, a picture or any object exactly the way it is. Once I asked an extreme left-brainer why a certain leaf in his painting was folded so (it seemed rather odd). And he explained that it was because the leaf in front of him was really folded that way (Oh!). Right-brainers have no problem painting the other side of the leaf that faces the table. They can embellish what they see or reinvent it altogether.

IQ and EQ

The measurement of the left brain functions (I think), is the intelligence quotient or IQ. The right brain's measurement is emotional quotient or EQ. One comes from the conscious brain; the other has the help of the subconscious and the supraconscious. Traditional schools only measure the student's IQ and leave those with high EQ's floundering until they graduate and begin to shine on their own.

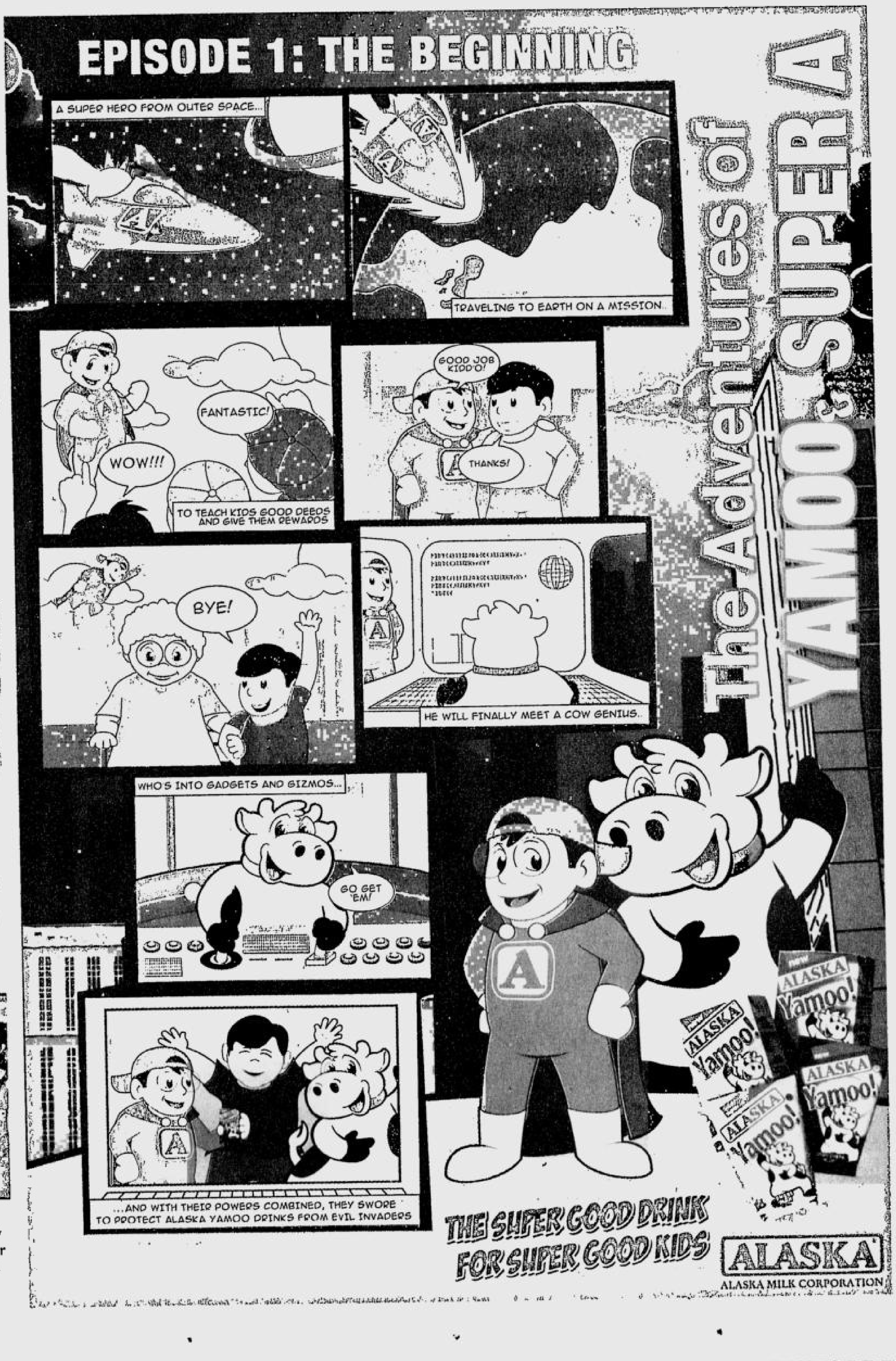
Since the left brain is great at memorizing words and mathematical formulas, it is also hard to know, in early schooling, whether a left brain classmate with high grades is truly intelligent or just a downloader. Sometimes you meet an honor student who has botched her life and finally feel superior to her because there are summa cum laudes in school but also summa cum laudes in life.

Since the left brain is cold reason, it has trouble accepting extraterrestrials, ghosts, fairies and other spirit forms. Its forte is "classifying" and these simply do not "belong." Meditation, seeing invisibles and the future, all forms of faith healing, alternative medicine (homeopathy, pranic healing, acupuncture, yoga, vegetables, etc), out-of-body and other altered states are dyed-in-the-wool right brain activities. They say females are generally right-brained, males left-brained.

The left brain, which analyzes everything, is therefore hard put to accept the oneness of body, mind and spirit. It especially hates holistic cures (hocus pocus!), the hypothesis that all illnesses are psychosomatic, (my skipped heartbeat?!) or that the mountain is God, the river is God, the tree is God, the butterfly is God (pantheism!) and man, too, (sacreligious!).

Every individual has a distinct preference for one or the other mode of thinking. There should really be no debate on which is the better brain, the left or the right. (It reminds one of those debates on who is the greater hero, Rizal or Bonifacio.) In life it is necessary work to keep the two brains more or less in balance. They cannot be split. We need both to survive. One cannot carry out the ideas, dreams and missions originating from the right brain unless the left brain, with its planning and strategizing capabilities, is there to act on it.

A balance of the left and the right brain is also what brings us to the stillness that is the oneness of the universe. You see yourself and other individuals objectively but do know that you are still a part of the whole.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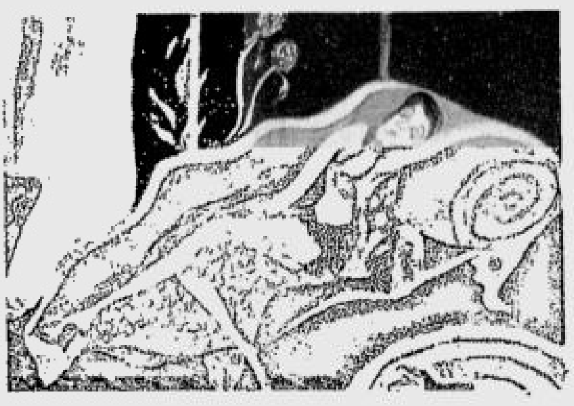
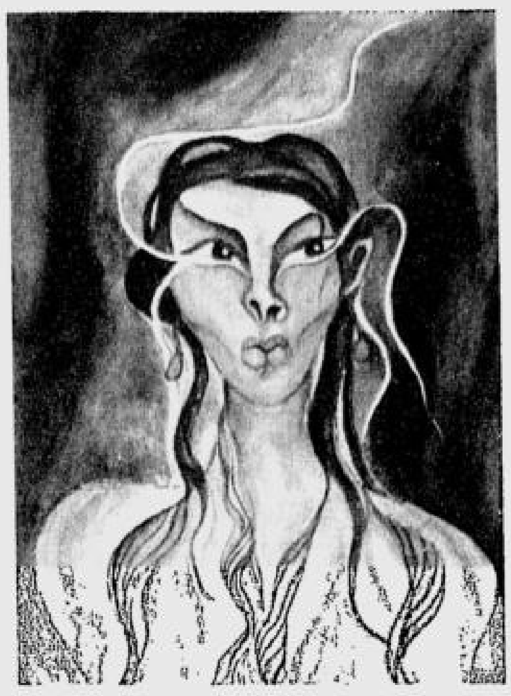
The left and the right

There should really be no debate on which is the better mode of thinking; we need both to survive

By Gilda Cordero Fernando



"IN REPOSE"



"WHEN I Grow Old I Will Be Magic"

I HAVE been a Sunday painter since I was 70, which means that I paint every day of the week, passionately, deep into the night, except Sundays, but it is not my occupation. Lately, I like to hold my pencil for the preliminary drawing with my left hand and just let it go where it wants to—curves and loops and circles and sweeps. I look at the resulting abstract carefully and let my imagination go to work.

It is like a Rorschach test. I see in it what I like to see. I isolate the figures that I find and erase all irrelevant lines. The left hand, I read in some psychology book, is the one that knows how to draw. Because its work comes from the right side of the brain, the seat of imagination and intuition, it is without inhibitions. The right hand, whose impulses come from the left brain, draws consciously and the result is precise and controlled. Brain energy works in an X-fashion, left brain to right hand, right brain to left hand. (Is this what is referred to when we popularly call conservatives "the left" and progressives "the right"?)

Doodles

In one random left-hand sketch I find a baked fish on a platter. Around it are celery stalks and Brussels sprouts and wine glasses. But it is not at all what a fish painting is expected to be—not the tail of the fish (which is as if shaped by a cookie cutter) nor the crocheted tablecloth around it. In the first place, I would never choose a baked fish for a subject because I don't even like to cook!

As soon as the pencil sketch is finished I shift to my right hand with the watercolor brush. It is my right hand (and therefore my left brain) that knows how to follow contours and respects boundaries.

In another left-hand doodle I discern shoes and slippers of every kind, as if strewn about on a beach, and in between them, splayed feet like an Igorot's. The left hand has a sense of humor! In another doodle I discover a whole menagerie of animals—a Dachshund sitting up on its tail, an *askal*, a guinea hen (more or less), a green turkey, a pink baby dinosaur and a pair of cross-eyed geese—stacked one on top of the other! Who in their right mind would group such animals together! What a difference from my right hand drawings which are cautioned by my logical left brain to behave!

After a month of these doodles, I feel truly empowered. I feel I can draw anything! The rules are mine, so where could I possibly go wrong, even with purple ducks? It may not be something a critic will go crazy about (unless I am able to hone my craft—too late). But the art is truly me and so I like it, though, like a Rorschach test, it is also how one's secrets are found out. (Kinky, man!)

Parts or whole

The left brain is "logical, sequential, rational, analytical, objective," reads the info I have downloaded from the computer. It "processes information in a linear manner, part to part until it arrives at the whole. It takes pieces, lines them up, arranges them in sequence and draws its conclusion." Hence it looks at parts of the elephant.

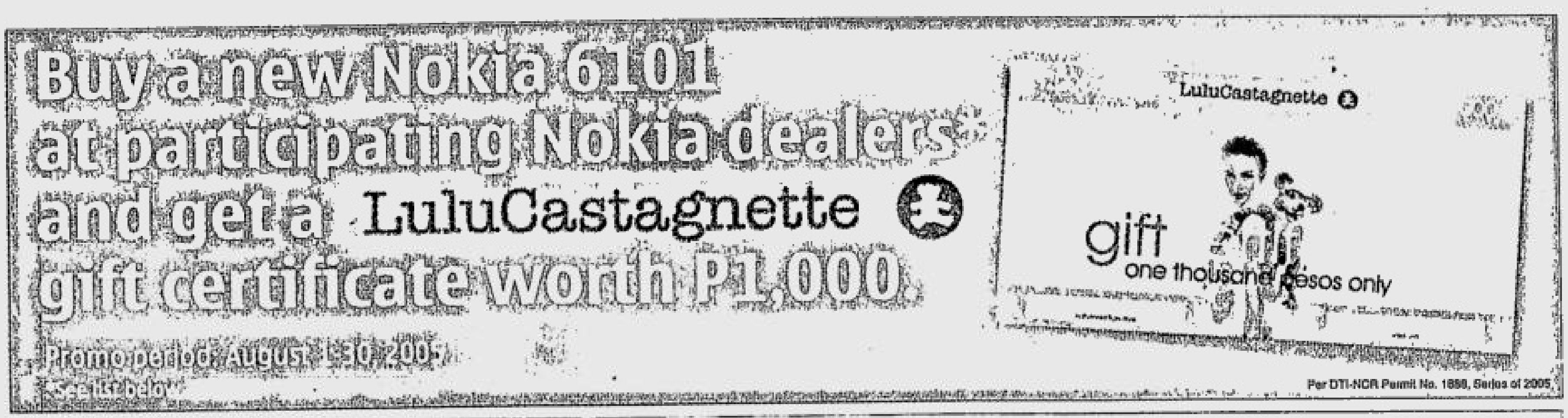
The right lobe is "random, intuitive, holistic, synthesizing" and looks at the whole elephant. I understand now how, being a right-brainer, I had such difficulty making an outline of, or pre-planning a short story in school. I know by instinct how to write it—the story would just weave itself as I go along. So I spend the whole night writing out the story, deriving the outline from the finished product afterwards. Some people cannot do outlines but some people cannot make a story out of their outlines either. Such is life.

Our right brain, on the other hand, processes from whole to parts holistically. It has the capacity to work on hunches and intuition which come in a lightning flash, skipping many of the left brain's analytical steps to arrive at the same conclusion. From the right brain comes inspiration, vision and an understanding of one's mission.

We plan, organize and classify with our left brain. Rules and laws are its product. They create order and clarity in our world. Of course you can also become very dogmatic and get stuck in rules. Right brain persons who cannot follow rules sometimes invent their own forms of art, music, dance, writing or governance which either results in a fresh new form or chaos.

"The left brain has no imagination and loves the world of formula: It has no trouble processing symbols such as letters, words or math equations," the computer explains further. Left brain people like technology, computers, cameras, cell phones, etc. but can't, for the life of them, make out poems. The discipline required in ballet or ballroom dancing is left brain because its dictum is "practice makes perfect" but the creative impulse for its choreography is from the right brain. Habitual users of the right brain have a hard time with repetition. (No wonder I am poor in keeping to pattern, following a religion or ballroom steps and writing criticism).

THE LEFT/ C2



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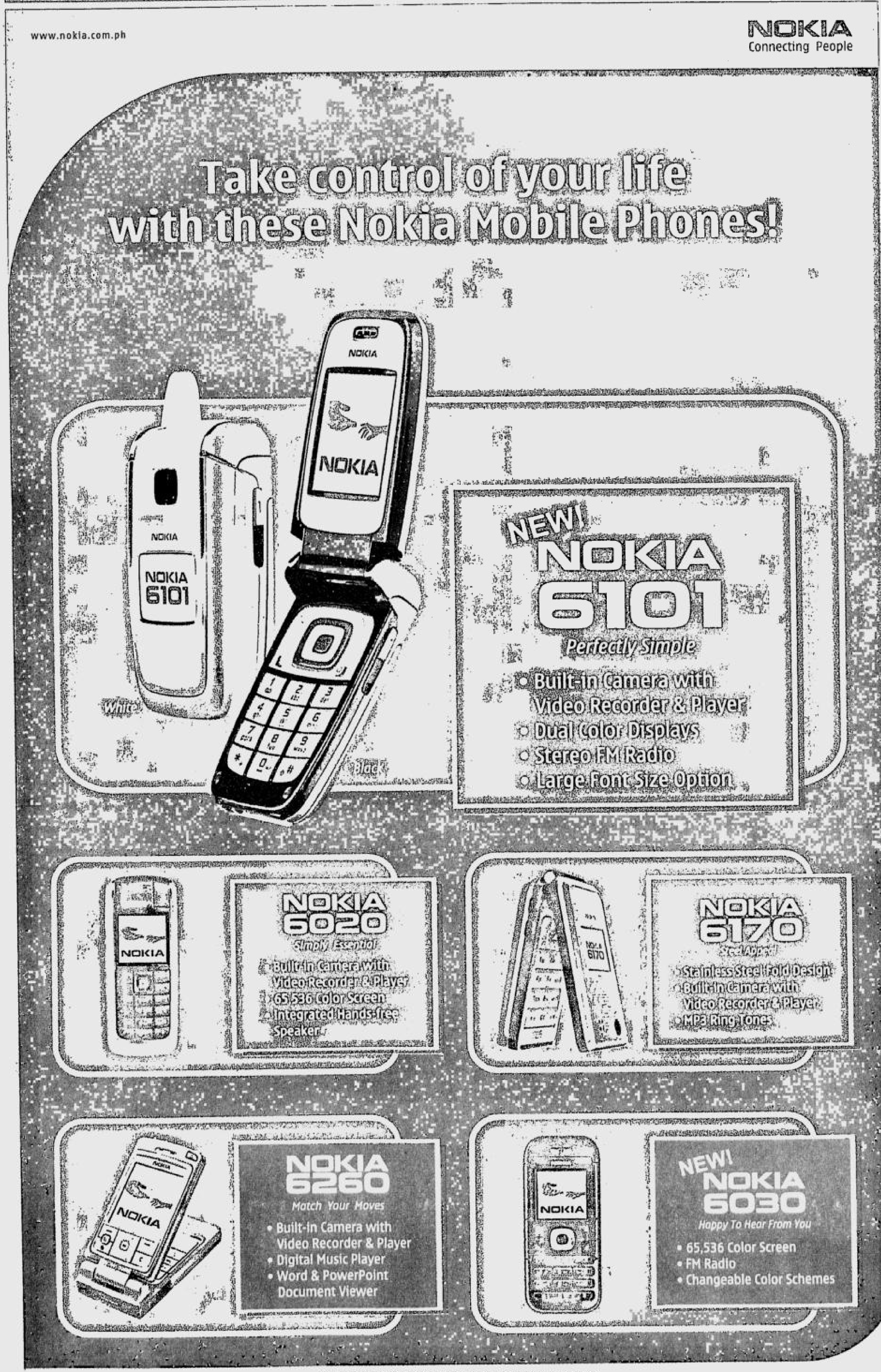

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'Florante at Laura' for the 'Hello, Garci' era

Gantimpala's staging of the Balagtas classic is a valuable tool in helping young people appreciate an essential work of Philippine literature

ADRIANA Agcaoili as Laura, Mikki Hernandez as Flerida, and Michael King Urieta as the Taga-Pagsalaysay in Gantimpala Theater Foundation's "Florante at Laura"

By Gibbs Cadiz

HOW many of us have wincing memories of grade-school days spent reading, stammering and stumbling through the vastly baroque verbal landscape that is Francisco Baltazar's "Florante at Laura"?

For many young people today, a childhood encounter with Balagtas' *awit*, a rhapsody in medieval-sounding Tagalog verse that the poet composed as a paean to a lost love while languishing in prison, represented a sojourn into something moldy, archaic and resolutely uncool—like being trapped in an attic full of old objects. Early exposure to Hollywood and Western mores means that any guy today who blurts out "Florante at Laura's" most well-known line—"*O pagsintang labis ng kapangyarihan... 'pag ikaw ang nasok sa puso ninuman, hahamakin lahat masunod ka lamang*"—while wooing a girl with a McFlurry is seriously in need of rehabilitation.

A requirement, apparently, that applies as well to Balagtas' singular creation. While undoubtedly a masterpiece of Tagalog rhetoric and a landmark in Philippine literature, "Florante at Laura" is also too wordy, too long-winded and plainly too alien to modern generations reared on less prolix ways of telling a story and celebrating romance.

So how about taking a crowbar to "Florante at Laura" and prying it from its declamatory roots—where a gifted orator recounted this tale by his lonesome before an enthralled crowd, relying only on his elocutionary skills to summon all the drama and color of the story—to make of it a grand production that blends costumes, music, scenery, dialogue and characterization for an ebullient, entertaining piece of theater?

ARKIN Da Silva as Florante and Richard Garcia as Florante's friend, Menandro

Curriculum-oriented

This makeover, if you will, is what Gantimpala Theater Foundation (GTF) has been doing for the last 17 years. Since 1988, GTF founding artistic director Tony Espejo has mounted and put on tour "Florante at Laura"—along with "Ibong Adarna" and Rizal's "Noli Mi Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo"—as student-oriented theatrical productions designed to augment school curricula on these classic Filipino texts.

The show has had five Florantes and four Lauras, 17 costume changes for the leads (which are done yearly), about half as many set renovations, and, at 15 performances per season with an estimated 125,000 students from all over the country as audiences, nearly 2.1 million young people since 1998 who have seen a difficult, often obscure literary doorstop come alive onstage with fun, freshness and a hip sense of pageantry.

Among the notable Florantes have been Tommy Abuel (who originated the part), Ernie Garcia and Earl Ignacio. Laura's lines have graced the lips of Mia Gutierrez, Harlene Bautista and Nikka Valencia, among others. In the last two years, the leads have been played by Arkin Da Silva and Adriana Agcaoili.

The current production uses a tighter, more streamlined version of the poem by National Artist Virgilio Almario, with some scenes rearranged and a number of verses transposed or done away with for clarity and conciseness. This textual jiggling has resulted in an easily accessible dramatic structure. Where in Balagtas' time the orator narrated everything, now the verses form direct, back-and-forth dialogue, allowing actors of disparate talents and temperaments to mine the richness and rhythm of the words.

A verse on parental tasks, for instance, originally part of a string of aphorisms and lessons Duke Briceo (Bodgie Pascua) imparted to his son Florante—"*Ang laki sa layaw karaniwa'y hubad, sa bait at muni't sa hatol ay salat; masaklap na bunga ng maling paglingap, habag ng magulang sa irog na anak*"—has become an ar-

"FLORANTE"/ D2

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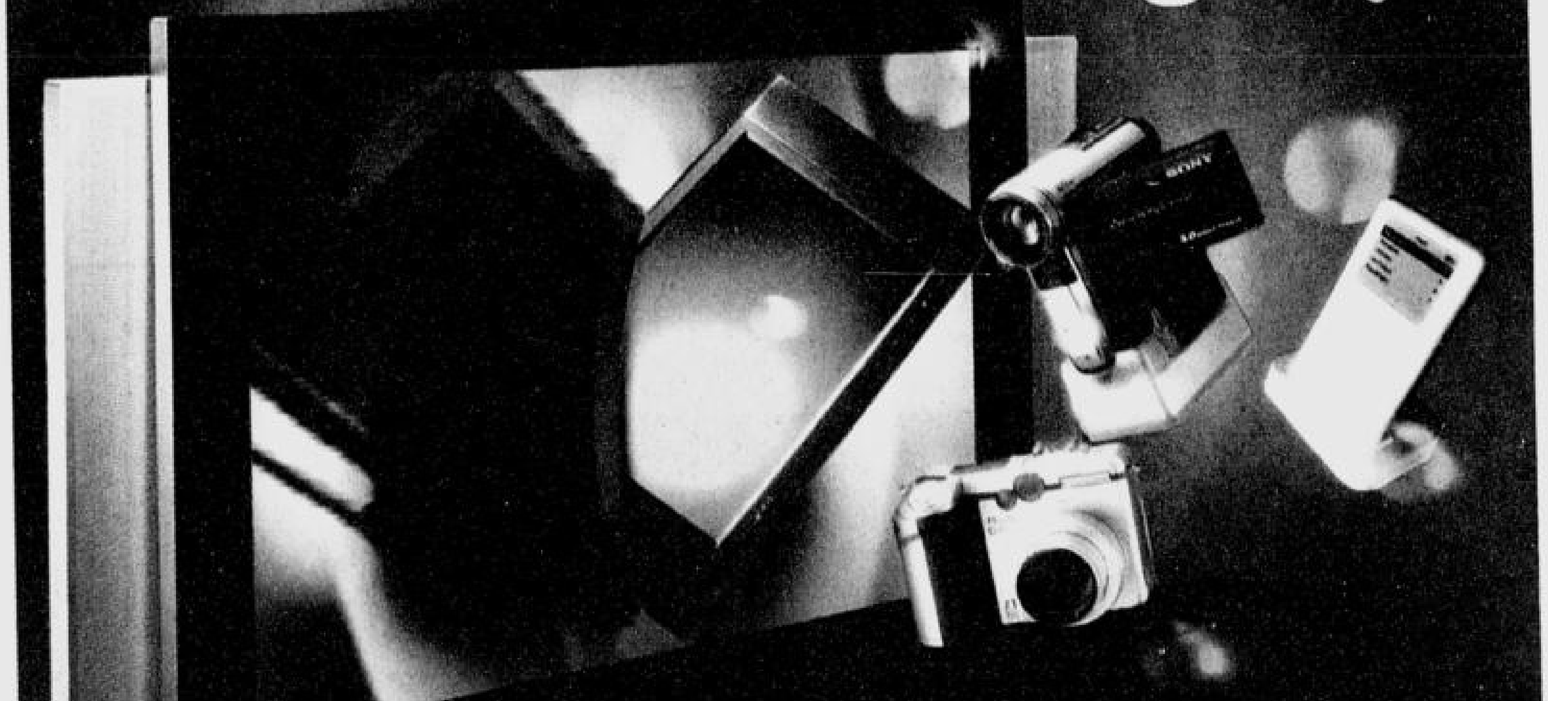

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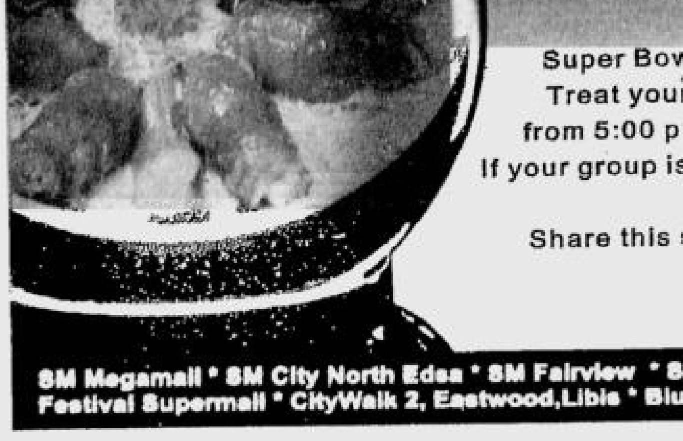

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POSTSCRIPT TO CINEMALAYA

The buzz on the 'indie'

By Ed Lejano
Contributor

WITH THE recent success of the first Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the catchphrase of the moment seems to be "indie film."

Was the buzz generated during the weeklong festival a signal to all and sundry that the erstwhile film industry, long declared good as dead, may, at last, be showing signs of life?

Were the diverse, unprecedented crowds that came merely seeking refuge from the on-going political circus, or were they keenly awaiting the next-big-thing in the so-called independent-film scene?

With a film industry plagued by rising production costs, formulaic plots geared to the lowest denominator, and its redoubtable star system, was the festival the seed that would grow to jumpstart a new chapter in filmmaking?

Confusion over terms

Its celebratory mood notwithstanding, the weeklong festival gave rise to some confusion about that word on everyone's lips. "Alternative," "low budget," "uncommercial" were some of the terms that got associated with the concept of independent film.

Recent box-office smashes like Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ" and George Lucas' Star Wars "Star Wars Episode VI: Revenge of the Sith" fall into such a contradiction, since these are actually considered independent films, made under the auspices of their directors' production companies (Gibson's Icon and Lucas' Lucasfilm) without studio oversight or interference.

When a big studio produces a high-profile blockbuster film targeting large audiences, that definitely is not an indie. But when the same studio makes a low-budget film that goes against the usual movie formulas and is imbued with a fresh, original spirit, the equation becomes blurry.

Creative control and independent financing outside of the industry's major studios may help describe what is an indie film. But definitions are inherently contextual as they are social constructs.

The question of independence was one issue raised in the Film Congress component of the festival. Short films, experimental and documentary modes of filmmaking do not necessarily go through commercial theatrical venues, but they have as much validity to be called independent.

Not one film festival can lay claim to absolutely define what an independent film is, and sometimes the best way to kill an emerging film trend is to start affixing labels leading to endless arguments.

One film fest cannot change an industry overnight, and good thing Cinemalaya did not make such a claim. What industry observers may see in the recent event is a long-overdue paradigm shift and its ripple effect that, hopefully, will reach the gatekeepers of the industry.

Robbie Tan of Seiko Films (producer of the recent high-definition film "Bikini Open") shared how the traditional masses can no longer afford to watch films in the malls.

"It's the ABC crowd now who watches films in the cineplexes," he said.

Stringent process

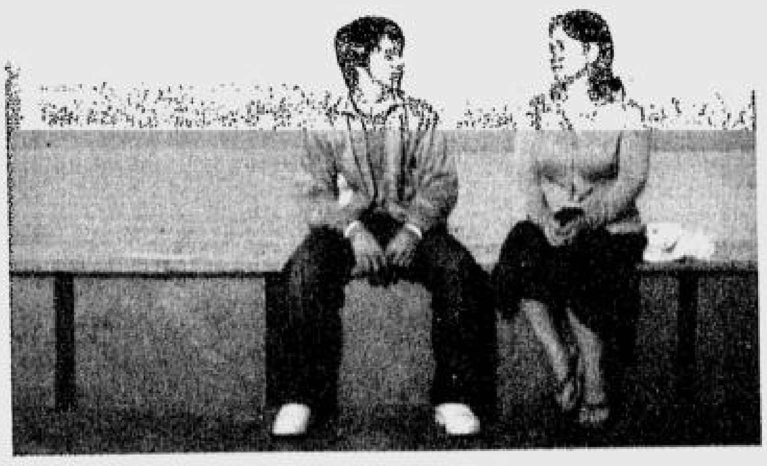
Taking on the fresh visions of a new crop of filmmakers with vibrant stories to tell, and liberated from the dictates of big studios, may point to a possible direction for an industry on the throes of change and struggling to find ways to be sustainable.

The competition launched last year had attracted hundreds of entries. After a stringent process of selecting scripts and monitoring its production, Cinemalaya reaped a strong harvest of entries: six short films and nine features using the medium of digital video.

For the neophyte filmmakers, and for others who have made digital films before them, this inexpensive medium has emerged as a feasible option for projects big on concept but with a bargain-basement budget.

Award-winning director Raymond Red said in the Film Congress that what is happening now is not necessarily a revolution, but an evolution.

CINEMALAYA filmmakers. Pam Miras, Anna Issabelle "Sunshine" Matutina, Sigrid Bernardo, Rica Arevalo, Michiko Yamamoto, Coreen Jimenez. Standing: Hermann Claravall, Rommel "Milo" Tolentino, Byron Bryant, Lawrence Fajardo, Michael Angelo Dagñalan, Jun Aves, Siegfried Barros-Sanchez, Emmanuel de la Cruz, Clodualdo del Mundo Jr., Alfred Aloysius Adlawan and Raymond Lee



ANGELO Ilagan and Jaclyn Jose in Emmanuel dela Cruz's "Sarong Banggi"

With half-a-million-pesos seed money granted to each of the nine feature filmmakers, the ultra-low-budget digital films they came up with appeared most viable to produce, and prospects for their distribution are getting brighter. If things go well, the logistics of moviemaking in the country may be forever changed.

Still, film will be here to stay for the next few years, as the most viable means for distribution in theaters is still the projected celluloid film owing to the traditional movie projection systems in place.

Indie superstars

Most of the competition films did not rely on big-name stars but on indie veterans such as Epi Quizon, Joel Torre, Pen Medina, etc. Through the years, these unsung heroes of the independent set have been accorded their own star status by their core followers.

JOY Soler de Castro in Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.'s "Pepot Artista"

In the vibrant '60s, Andy Warhol anointed his own stable of "superstars" whom he employed for the many alternative films he produced. The actors who came to be identified with Warhol's Factory eventually found their own celebrity niche, earning their own 15 minutes of fame.

Nathan Lopez, Elijah Castillo and Angelo Ilagan are hardly marquee names, but they headlined some of the Cinemalaya entries. Their casting definitely relied not on star power but on sheer talent, and the raves they have received attest to this. These newcomers will soon be basking in their own 15 minutes of fame, and beyond.

That the films that attracted the largest crowds were those with no name stars demonstrated how fresh concepts and effective storytelling remained the basic tools for a truly satisfying movie experience.

With the impact of Cinemalaya's concept-driven films, has the indie star finally arrived, and is it time for the traditional studio star system to be reevaluated?

Triple whammy

Whatever label this profusion of low-budget films may come to be called, what comes to fore is the need for government support to help resuscitate an industry grappling with the triple whammy of rising costs, high taxation and film piracy.

Key to the success of the Korean film industry has been a law that requires their theaters to show a local film for every number of foreign films that gets shown in the country.

The resurgence of Thailand's film production can be traced to the government's stipulation that for every foreign film shot in the country, the film outfit is mandated to have its postproduction done locally.

With many other digital films soon to be released this year, 2005 may prove to be a banner year for indie films, despite the negative projections for the larger film industry.

Are we on to something new here, one that signals a rebirth of Pinoy filmmaking similar to the last Golden Age of local cinema in 1976?

New Wave, Pinoy-style

In the late '50s in Paris, a bunch of film scholars writing for the journal Cahier du Cinéma attacked the popular films of the day.

"You don't know how to create cinema because you no longer even know what it is," wrote Jean-Luc Godard, who in the years to follow would become the most enduring filmmaker of the influential film movement called the French New Wave.

Similarly, to evolve with the changing local realities, there is a need for homegrown cinema to come up with creative strategies, amid piracy and government neglect, to get a slice of the box-office pie.

Whether independent, mainstream or anything in-between, Pinoy films must be given a fighting chance in its home turf against the onslaught of the next Hollywood blockbuster.

Pipe dream or not, what is important is that Filipinos are making worthwhile films again, in formats that seem sustainable, and using concepts and approaches that are fresh and in-sync with today's evolving audiences.

The Cinemalaya film fest is more than about indie labels or a change in film formats. The creative burst of energy it has unleashed reflects the pulse of the moment—that the big picture may be changing.

Thankfully, people are sitting up and taking notice. The indie craze is, hopefully, more than just a buzz. It might as well be an industry's wake-up call.

'Florante at Laura'

From page D1

gument by the father for sending his young son to war to fortify his spirit, against the vehement objections of Florante's mother, Prinsesa Floresca.'

Crucial contribution

Espejo's more crucial contribution has been in appropriating the conventions of a lost art form, the *komedya*, in staging "Florante at Laura."

The *komedya*—or the *moro-moro*—was characterized by highly stylized movements and blocking, elevated acting and speech, the presence of martial music accompanied by apt choreography, and the *pingkian*, a sort of verbal joust before actual combat that gave the actors the chance to comment on particular issues of the day.

Watching this early form of trash talk (in high-flown Tagalog at that) between stage adversaries is a revelation. Perhaps this was how a much-derided convention in Pinoy action cinema began—the sight of two virile men, armed to the gills, hurling threats, imprecations and plot explanations at each other from safe vantage points before the explosive firefight.

"Florante at Laura's" *pingkian* in Act 2 was an opportunity for the cast to ham it up and poke fun at current sociopolitical and pop-cultural subjects. Yes FM's "*Kailangan pa bang i-memorize 'yan?*" was mouthed, to a roar from the mostly high-school audience. Various commercials were also quoted. But it was a "Hello, Garci" comeback that brought the house down.

The deconstruction extended to the marches and the swordfights. At one point, Florante and his Muslim counterpart, Heneral Osmalik, even broke into snatches of rap and novelty song to trade insults and rally their men. This, while dressed in period finery and gamboling about in a sumptuous, glittering set that's clearly designed for a much more visual audience.

MARCHING scene from "Florante at Laura." The play resurrects the martial conventions of the long-lost *komedya* or *moro-moro*.

Is this good theater? It makes for an entertaining if occasionally low-brow one, certainly. Still, if mixing Balagtas' romantic ejaculations with a bit of plebeian humor is what it would take to bring in high-school kids and, more important, move them to laugh, learn and gain something from the material, then who's to say Gantimpala's approach disrespects "Florante at Laura?"

Committed actors

The verve and commitment with which the large ensemble go through their paces also buttresses the company's unique take on the material. Despite a captive audience of students, and despite having done their roles perhaps hundreds of times, Pascua, Agcaoili, Da Silva, Michael King Urieta as the Tagapagsalaysay, and especially Joel Molina as Adolfo are rigorous in their performances, never winging it for effect.

The rest of the cast ranges from weak to effective, but none can be called lazy. While there is a fair amount of playing to the gallery, the *komedya* format itself makes for a good excuse. And the students love it.

"Florante at Laura" translates to a valuable production, not only because it helps this country's youth appreciate an essential work in the canon of Philippine literature, but also because, in one stroke, it reclaims two long-lost art forms: Balagtas' beloved *awit* and the commanding *komedya* of yore.

If Japan's Noh theater deserves United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) support, our own *komedya* does, too. But forget Unesco. We can begin with ourselves.

GTF's "Florante at Laura" runs until Aug. 13 in various venues. Call 8995745 or 8963503.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

Mockery and laughter in identity plays

By Gary C. Devilles
Contributor

PERHAPS one of the problems we Filipinos are now experiencing can be traced to our inability to articulate our identity. This consequently translates to a failure to ponder on our yearning.

Despite the fact that such questions are fundamental to our national survival and stability, we have ignored them for so long that whatever problems we encounter, economic or otherwise, can be considered symptoms of this helplessness.

With these basic issues in mind, Ateneo de Manila University's resident theater company, Entablado, is mounting two relevant plays: "Sino Ba Kayo?" by Julian Cruz Balmaceda, and "Fantasya" by Al Santos.

Contrived situations

"Sino Ba Kayo?" ("Who Are You?") is a comedy of ridiculous and contrived situations, a humorous exploitation of the confusion resulting from mistaken identities.

Doña Marcela tries to conceal her son from her would-be husband, Crispin, who incidentally has secrets of his own—an affair with a girl named Maria through correspondence and a daughter from his previous marriage. Doña Marcela informs her housemaids, Juan and Maria, to help her conceal her secret until the appropriate time when she can explain to Crispin her predicament.

More complications ensue from this premise, gradually transforming the play from a mistaken-identity comedy to a satire on learned pretension and bourgeois credulity.

What is quite implicit yet perceptible in Balmaceda's comedy of intrigue is its exposition of the credulity of the bourgeoisie, in particular its pretensions to normality in a precarious time of war. Perhaps, the play is encouraging us not only to laugh at these follies but also to help us ponder on the basic issue of class tensions.

Between the middle class and the lower class, the master and the servant, it is usually the disadvantaged that has a clear grasp of reality and the contradiction of their situation. Though powerless, they compensate for and retaliate through jokes and mockery. The poor ridicules the rich as evident in the way they make fun of their master's language, English.

Ironic stance

Although mockery is a convenient tool of the oppressed, in Al Santos' "Fantasya" it takes the form of self-reflexivity and an ironic stance.

"Fantasya" ("Fantasy") is a story of two neophyte actors waiting for the shooting of their scene. They were only told to wait without any assurance that their project would push through. While waiting, the two actors tell jokes, share their stories and have fun by imagining their own movie that will make them popular.

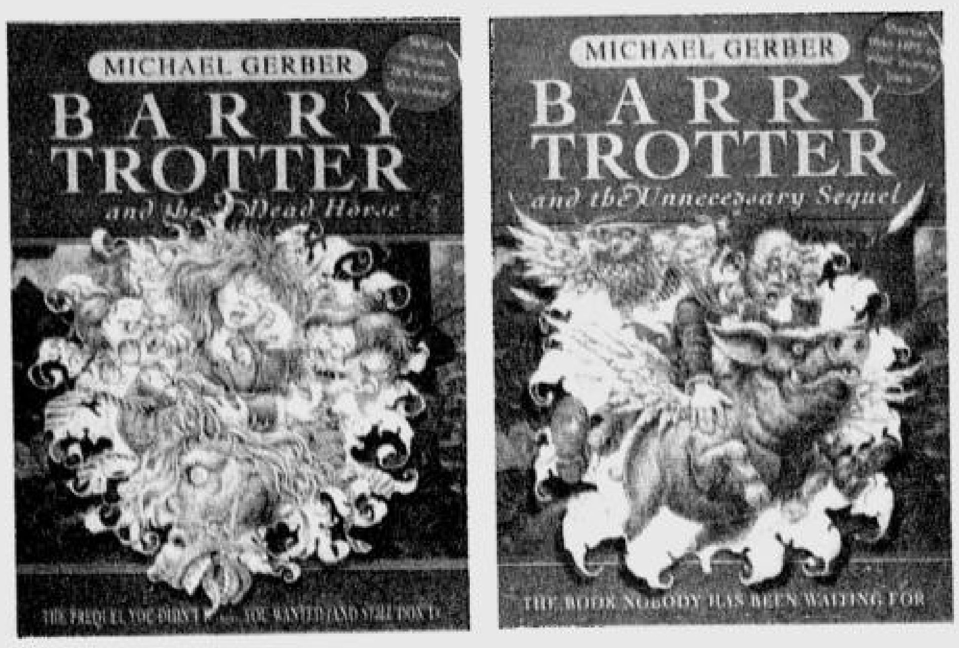
Their fantasy is their coping mechanism against life's cruelty. Whether as a rape victim or a child of a failed marriage, these actors are able to situate themselves within the larger socioeconomic forces, comprehend their problems, and transcend their tragic condition to come up with a creative outpouring.

They are able to mock the dialogues of some well-known actors in popular movies they recall, and they can do this without so much effort, knowing only too well that the reality of their oppression is the very stuff that makes for good melodramatic and commercial films.

As the play ends with the dreadful acceptance that their scene will not be shot on that day, one actor stands resilient, still convinced that things would be better the next day.

"Fantasya" is a tragicomic play which suggests ironic laughter is the only response left to people faced with the emptiness and meaningless of existence.

However, laughter is not enough for us, the viewers, who must be able to see through the veneer and let our condition of contradiction become an opportunity for enlightenment.



Funny parody

GET the funniest parodies to tickle your funny bone from selected National Book Store branches. Michael Gerber writes the wackiest parody of the best-selling "Harry Potter" series, the "Barry Trotter" books. Creative and goofy, these books are about the magical and twisted adventures of Barry Trotter, Ermine Cringer, Lon Measly and other dubious characters in the Hogwash School for Wizards. Catch these sidesplitting books in selected National Book Store branches.

LISA MACUJA-ELIZALDE AT FEU

Prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, artistic director and principal ballerina of Ballet Manila , recently gave a lecture-demonstration on ballet at Far Eastern University with pieces from "La Bayadére," "Sari't Bahag," "Swan Lake" "Harlequinade" and "Mga Awit at Sayaw." Elizalde was the star dancer of Kirov Ballet when she was studying in Russia.

Book sale

POWERBOOKS celebrates its eighth anniversary this month with a big book blowout for avid Filipino readers, the PowerBooks Powersale.

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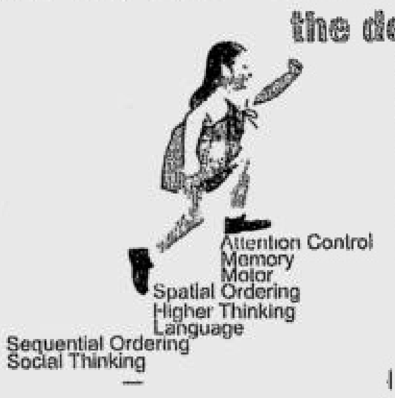
PowerBooks has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428-29), Megamall (6352898-99), Alabang Town Center (8505662-63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25) and Robinson's Ermita (5233334/5243448).

ACCELERATE
the development of your child's
Logical Skills



Have you seen your child figure out how to do something without your aid, or find out how different events are related? He's thinking logically. Logical thinking refers to having the sense of connecting an event with a probable cause. People who have this ability often acquire it from years of training. So, how would you help your child develop this skill?

University of North Carolina professor and author Dr. Mel Levine says, to help your children develop their skills, you have to understand how their minds work and how they learn. Dr. Levine is one of the best-known education experts and pediatricians in the US; he has helped hundreds of children overcome their learning difficulties. He says that the mind, like the body, has different systems that are responsible for specific functions. These systems are dependent upon each other and work together to make learning successful.

Two of the eight systems of the mind related to one's logical skills are the higher thinking and attention control systems.

The **Higher Thinking System** allows a child to think critically and creatively. It helps him form concepts and understand how rules apply. It lets him understand complicated ideas, which enable him to solve problems, reason logically, and become open-minded.

The **Attention Control System**, on the other hand, controls learning and behavior. It manages the distribution of energy in the brain, slowing down your child's thinking to help him focus. It makes him concentrate and pay attention to what he does, and helps him do the right thing at the right time. It also helps him stay alert throughout the day, and enables him to finish a task at an efficient rate.

By understanding these two systems and knowing how they work together, you can help improve and develop your child's logical skills. Together with the other six systems of the mind, they help your child develop the skills necessary for him to excel in school. Dr. Levine says you should also be aware of your child's "neurodevelopmental profile", a list of his personal strengths and weaknesses. This profile is determined by Genes, Family Life and Stress Level, Cultural Factors, Friends, Emotions, Educational Experience and Health. Providing the best environment and encouragement will aid your child in developing a positive profile that would help him learn better.

To further help your child get ahead, make sure you provide him with the best nutrition. Give him Progress Gold. It is the only growing-up milk for kids one year and older that contains the Gold Brain and Body Formula, a breakthrough blend of 25 essential nutrients plus Preformed DHA and AA that help accelerate brain and visual development. It also has Natural Mixed Carotenoids that help strengthen immunity, and Zinc that helps promote faster growth.

Help your child accelerate his development with the right nourishment. This, along with your best care, may help your child excel in school and bring out the inherent strengths of his mind's systems.

Dr. Mel Levine
[illegible]

Dr. Mel Levine will be in the Philippines on August 12-13, 2005. Be there when he conducts the "Educating All Kinds of Minds" seminar at the Every Nation Building at the Fort, Taguig. Help your child accelerate his development by understanding how his mind works and how he learns. **Call 927-0143 / 926-5920 or log on to www.maximusinventus.com** to register.

Educating All Kinds of Minds
August 12-13, 2005
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Reference:
Levine, M. 2002. A Mind at a Time. Simon&Schuster, New York, Chapter 2, p27-50.

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Minimalist fashion in Metro mag

THIS month in Metro magazine, learn how nuts can help you lose weight, as well as how to prepare diet-friendly Japanese treats. On the latest fashion and beauty trends, find out how you can get the "minimalist look," using just one color for the eyes, cheeks and lips.

Read about mesotherapy, a costly yet effective treatment for hair loss. Also in this issue is the heart-wrenching story of two mothers, Thelma Chiong and Margot Larrañaga. One has two daughters who were raped and killed, the other has a son on death row. Find out how they are coping eight years after the most publicized criminal case in recent national history.

Carmina Villaroel and her twins grace the cover of this month's Working Mom magazine. The issue centers on creativity—how you can harness it in the workplace, nurture it in your children, and use it to find solutions to seemingly mundane problems.

Make your favorite brownies even more delightful with the recipes given by Dorothy Fereria in Food Magazine's August edition. Also, get practical recipes for grilling meat and seafood, and learn innovative recipes for the Italian dish ravioli and easy recipes for the newlyweds.

It's all about love this month in Starstudio magazine beginning with Judy Ann Santos as you have never seen or heard her before. Also riding high on love is Jolina Magdangal, who's happily going steady with Bebong Muñoz, a lawyer working in New York and a brother to the late Tenten Muñoz. And get updated on the Kris Aquino-James Yap romance with exclusive photos of the two celebrating Josh's birthday. Also featured are Heart Evangelista and Jericho Rosales on the set of "Ang Panday," and Maricel Soriano and Angelica Panganiban in Vietnam filming their upcoming *teleserye* "Vietnam Rose."

Chalk magazine shows you how to incorporate last season's boho pieces into rainy-weather looks. Plus, let TV host Bianca Gonzalez, model Nicole Hernandez, DJ Jon Herrera and more give you a step-by-step guide to bagging the coolest jobs in the world—theirs—while you're still in college.

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MY FAIR MALADIES
Funny Essays and Poems on Various Ailments and Afflictions
Edited by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo

Book on funny ailments and afflictions

MILFLORES Publishing Inc. has released "My Fair Maladies: Funny Essays and Poems on Various Ailments and Afflictions," edited by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo.

The 60 funny essays and poems in this book are all about the maladies that have afflicted some of the best writers in the country today—from a wandering eye to the big C, from an irrational fear of insects to a full-blown nervous breakdown. Many of the contributors are young and a number of them have won awards in literary contests like the Palanca Awards.

The essays are interspersed with nuggets of real information on the illnesses. There are also cartoons by Pol Medina Jr. of "Pugad Baboy" fame and Jomike Tejido, creator of "Mikrokosmos." The delightful illustrations are by Robert Magnuson and the cover is by Mes de Guzman.

Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo has a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. She has written 14 books and has won several literary awards, including the grand prize for the Novel in English in the Palanca Awards and a 2004 National Book Award for a similar anthology of funny essays and poems on insomnia, "Sleepless in Manila." She was director of the UP Creative Writing Center and the University of the Philippines Press. She is now the vice president for public affairs of the UP.

"My Fair Maladies" is available at National Book Store, PowerBooks, Books for Less and other major book stores at P360 per copy.

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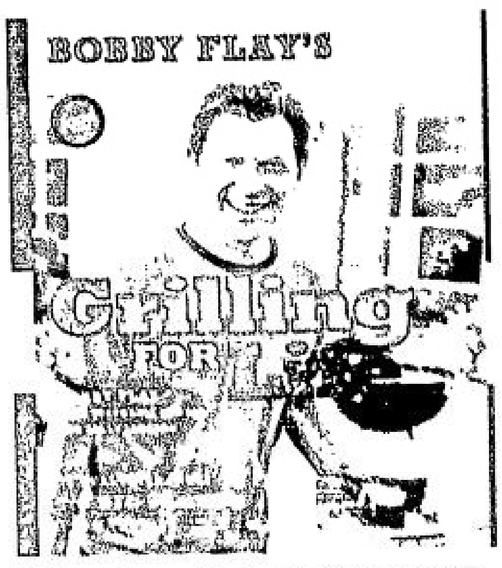
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